



Israel bars entry to outspoken U.S. congresswomen

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said Thursday that it will bar two Democratic congresswomen from entering the country ahead of a planned visit over their support for a Palestinian-led boycott movement, a decision announced shortly after President Donald Trump tweeted that it would "show great weakness" to allow them in. The move to bar Reps. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota from visiting appeared to be unprecedented. It marked a deep foray by Israel into America's bitterly polarized politics and a sharp escalation of Israel's campaign against the international boycott movement.

Continued on Page 8



In this July 15, 2019, file photo, U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., right, speaks, as U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., listens, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

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Weak global growth likely to mean US slowdown, not recession

AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — How fragile is the global economy? The U.S.-China trade war is weakening businesses in both countries, Germany's economy shrank in the second quarter, and Britain appears headed for a disruptive exit from the European Union this fall. Those trends have hammered American manufacturers and caused global financial markets to plunge on fears that the world's largest economy could slip into a recession.

Yet most analysts expect the U.S. economy to power through the rough patch, at least in the coming months, on the strength of solid consumer spending and a resilient job market. The U.S. stock market plummeted earlier this week when the bond market, spooked by the global turmoil, sent a possible early warning sign of a recession ahead: The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note slipped briefly below 2-year Treasury yields. That is an unusual shift that indicates investors expect the U.S. economy to ex-



In this Tuesday, March 5, 2019, file photo, an employee in protective clothing works with a steel pouring ladle during a guided media tour at the steel producer Salzgitter AG in Salzgitter.

pand much more slowly in the coming months. The shift has preceded at least the last five U.S. recessions, though as much as two years can pass before a recession actually hits. Still, most economists were buoyed by a robust retail sales report Thursday that suggested that American

consumers aren't fretting about bond yields. Sales at U.S. stores and restaurants jumped in July by the most in four months. Online sales soared to their best showing since January. Spending at restaurants is a sign of confidence, given that most people eat out when they feel they have money to spare.

"With the rest of the world sliding into the abyss, the July retail sales figures show a resurgent U.S. consumer riding to the rescue," said Michael Pearce, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, a consulting firm. If anything, it's the Trump administration's trade war that has been harming the world economy. President Donald Trump has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion of imports from China, along with duties on most steel and aluminum imports. He has also threatened to hit the remaining \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports with 10% tariffs, though he has delayed that increase on about half of those items to avoid raising prices for U.S. holiday shoppers. Still, the tariffs — and Beijing's retaliatory duties on \$110 billion of U.S. goods — have dragged down China's growth to its slowest pace in 26 years. That slowdown in the world's second-largest economy has,

in turn, pummeled Germany's economy, because Germans export industrial equipment to China. Germany's economy actually shrank in the second quarter.

Other global headwinds remain a threat. Simon MacAdam, global economist at Capital Economics, said the chances of a "no-deal" Brexit have risen sharply since Boris Johnson replaced Theresa May as British prime minister last month. Johnson "is dead keen on leaving the EU" by Oct. 31, the deadline for any deal, MacAdam noted.

An abrupt exit would most likely lower the British pound, raising inflation and cutting into British consumer spending. Supply chains for British manufacturers and retailers would also probably be disrupted as the country reinstates its customs procedures. One of the U.S. economy's biggest weak spots is manufacturing, which is suffering from the trade war and global growth strains. Factory output has sunk over the past 12 months. Manufacturing job growth has tapered off during the past year. Surveys of manufacturers indicate that the uncertainty from tariffs is hurting their businesses. American manufacturers

appear to be either in a recession or on the verge of a downturn, said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist for the consultancy RSM. The best possible boost for U.S. factories would be if Trump pulled back on trade hostilities with China and achieved a trade deal, Brusuelas said.

"Right now, the recession risks are more policy-driven, and if policy does not change or the trade and finance war with China escalates, then the manufacturing recession will become a broader and deeper contraction that threatens to spill over into other areas of the economy," he said.

Trump, who promised voters a manufacturing renaissance, has yet to acknowledge the sector's bleak condition.

"We're restoring the glory of American manufacturing," the president said Tuesday in Pennsylvania, a state that has lost 5,600 factory jobs so far this year.

In fact, many economists say they're nervous that the government has fewer options to juice the economy than it has in the past. The short-term interest rate that the Fed controls is barely above 2%, giving it far less room to stimulate growth in the event of a downturn. Before the Great Recession in 2007, the Fed's rate was more than twice that level. And the widening budget deficit, on track to hit \$1 trillion by 2022, also leaves the government with little room to maneuver.

"It is very uncharacteristic — very unusual — to be running larger budget deficits every year," said Tim Quinlan, an economist at Wells Fargo. "The federal government is not in a very strong position to offer a fiscal response in the event that it's needed."

Consumers could also pull back on spending later this year if hiring slows and wage gains slow. Employers have already reduced, on average, the number of hours worked for employees in the second quarter, which cuts into paychecks. □

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Panel rules soap, sleep essential to migrant kids' safety

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

Immigrant children detained by the U.S. government should get edible food, clean water, soap and toothpaste under a longstanding agreement over detention conditions, a federal appeals panel ruled Thursday in dismissing a Trump administration bid to limit what must be provided.

A three-judge panel for the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco tossed out the U.S. government's challenge to a lower court's findings that authorities had failed to provide safe and sanitary conditions for the children in line with a 1997 settlement agreement.

The government argued that authorities weren't required to provide specific accommodations, such as soap, under the settlement's requirement that facilities be "safe and sani-

tary" and asked the panel to weigh in. The appellate judges disagreed.

"Assuring that children eat enough edible food, drink clean water, are housed in hygienic facilities with sanitary bathrooms, have soap and toothpaste, and are not sleep-deprived are without doubt essential to the children's safety," the panel wrote.

The ruling followed a June hearing where a U.S. government lawyer said the agreement was vague and might not require that a toothbrush and soap be provided to children during brief stays in custody. Requiring these items, the government said, would be a change in the agreement. Leecia Welch, senior director of legal advocacy and child welfare at the National Center for Youth Law, said the panel's ruling wasn't surprising. "It should shock the conscience of all Americans to know that

our government argued children do not need these bare essentials," she said.

A message seeking comment was sent to the Department of Justice.

U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee in Los Angeles ruled in 2017 that authorities had breached the agreement — widely known as the Flores settlement — after young immigrants caught on the border said they had to sleep in cold, overcrowded cells and were given inadequate food and dirty water.

Since then, problems in the facilities have persisted. Gee has appointed an independent monitor to



In this July 9, 2019, file photo, immigrants play soccer at the U.S. government's newest holding center for migrant children in Carizo Springs, Texas.

Associated Press

evaluate conditions.

The issues date back years. They have drawn increased attention amid a rise in the

number of children and families, mostly from Central America, arriving on the southwest border. □



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Democratic presidential candidate former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper speaks at the Presidential Gun Sense Forum, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Thursday end-

ed his longshot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination and said he may instead challenge one

Hickenlooper ends White House bid, mulls Senate run in 2020

of the most vulnerable Senate Republicans in 2020.

In a video message, Hickenlooper said he had heard from many in his state urging him to enter the Senate race.

"They remind me how much is at stake for our country. And our state," he said. "I intend to give that some serious thought."

Colorado's shift to the left could put Sen. Cory Gardner's seat in jeopardy for Republicans, and at least 10 Democrats have launched

campaigns, setting up a competitive primary even before Hickenlooper, 67, makes a decision.

Hickenlooper became a leading figure in Colorado with his quirky, consensus-driven and unscripted approach to politics. He once jumped out of a plane to promote a ballot measure to increase state spending, and he won two statewide elections during years of Republican waves. He also was Denver's mayor.

He began his White House campaign in March, promising to unite the country. Instead, he quickly became a political punch line. Founding a series of brew-pubs made Hickenlooper a multimillionaire. But shortly before taking his first trip to Iowa as a presidential candidate, he balked on national television at calling himself a capitalist. Then, at a CNN town hall, he recounted how he once took his mother to see a pornographic movie.

With the campaign struggling to raise money, his staff urged Hickenlooper to instead challenge Gardner. But Hickenlooper stayed in and hired another group of aides in a last-ditch effort to turn around his campaign. He positioned himself as a common-sense candidate who couldn't be labeled a "socialist" by Republicans. But Hickenlooper couldn't make his voice heard in the crowded Democratic field of about two dozen candidates.

It didn't help that, by Hick-

enlooper's own admission, he was a mediocre debater and an erratic public speaker. In the end, he could not scrape together enough money for many of his trademark quirky ads, only launching one in which avid beer drinkers toast Hickenlooper by comparing him to favorite brews. He became the second Democrat to end a presidential bid after Rep. Eric Swalwell pulled out of the primary last month.

"While this campaign didn't have the outcome we were hoping for, every moment has been worthwhile," Hickenlooper tweeted on Thursday.

Republicans seized on the meltdown of Hickenlooper's campaign as evidence the Democratic Party has become too radical. "A two-term governor of a swing state and #2020 presidential #Democrat candidate who was booed for warning against his party's embrace of socialist policies has been forced out of the race," tweeted Kellyanne Conway, a top Trump aide.

But Hickenlooper's own supporters attributed his failure partly to the persistence of former Vice President Joe Biden's strong position in the Democratic primary field. Hickenlooper launched his presidential bid presuming that the 76-year-old Biden would stumble, and the electorate would be hungry for another centrist with a track record of winning white moderates. □

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6 police shot in standoff that 'could have been far worse'

By KRISTEN DE GROOT
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A gunman barricaded himself inside a Philadelphia rowhouse for 7½ hours, firing on police and wounding six in a standoff that trapped two officers and paralyzed a neighborhood, all while the commissioner and the shooter's attorney tried to negotiate a surrender.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross expressed amazement that the standoff, which began Wednesday when officers attempted to serve a drug warrant, ended with no one dead and no life-threatening injuries, despite the gunman firing over 100 rounds. It "could have been far worse," Ross said Thursday outside the Philadelphia Police Department. "This was a very dynamic situation, one that I hope we never see again."

The gunman came out of the home after police used tear gas. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation and then placed in custody.

As officers flooded the scene, the situation grew chaotic at times. Police took to Twitter to ask media helicopters to pull back at the beginning of the standoff, saying they feared the gunman might be able to see police positions in the footage. People who had been blocked or pulled from their homes clamored for information, and at times, some onlookers shouted at or shoved officers. Many ignored orders by police to stay back, ducking under or stepping over police tape.

At one point, two men launched a drone, and when police tracked it down and confiscated it, a crowd of people already on edge shouted for the officers to pay attention

to the shooter and not the drone.

A nearby day care center was locked down for hours and later evacuated, with police officers helping carry babies and two city buses set up where shaken children waited for their parents to pick them up.

While standoffs with police are not uncommon, the situation in Philadelphia drew particular attention because of how long gunfire was exchanged and the fact that the commissioner made the unusual decision to speak to the shooter directly and that two police officers were trapped during the standoff.

The suspect was identified by Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner as Maurice Hill, 36. Krasner said Hill had an extensive criminal history, including drug, gun and robbery charges. Krasner said Hill should not have been on the streets but stopped short of saying there was any specific failure by law enforcement.

"I think it's fair to say the criminal justice system, imperfect as it is, did not stop this terrible incident," he told reporters at a news conference Thursday.

Pennsylvania prison officials said a man with the same name and date of birth served about 2½ years on drug charges and was paroled in 2006 and served more than a year for aggravated assault and before being released in 2013. State court online court records indicate that man had multiple arrests in Philadelphia and adjacent Delaware County between 2001 and 2012, producing convictions that include perjury, fleeing and eluding, escape and weapons offenses.

U.S. Attorney William McSwain told reporters that Hill

was prohibited from possessing firearms because of past convictions.

Hill's lawyer, Shaka Johnson, said Hill called him during the standoff asking for help surrendering. Johnson then called Krasner, and the two men patched in both Hill and the police commissioner, according to Krasner.

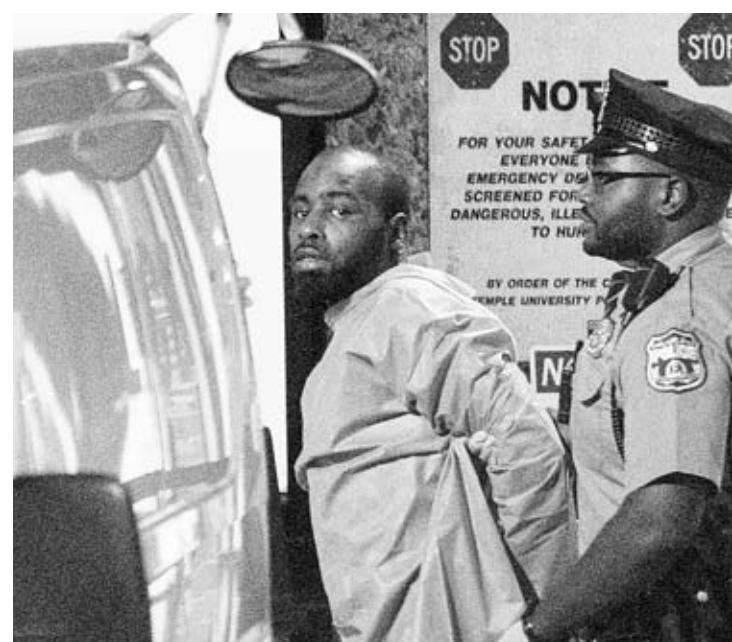
Hill told Johnson he wanted to make it out alive to see his newborn daughter and teenage son again.

President Donald Trump weighed in on the shootout Thursday morning, saying the gunman "should never have been allowed to be on the streets."

"He had a long and very dangerous criminal record," he wrote in the tweet. "Looked like he was having a good time after his capture, and after wounding so many police. Long sentence — must get much tougher on street crime!"

In the aftermath of the standoff, Philadelphia's top federal prosecutor said it was precipitated by a disrespect for law enforcement that the district attorney is championing.

"This vile rhetoric puts our police in danger," McSwain, the U.S. attorney, said Thursday in a news release, saying Krasner "routinely calls police and prosecutors corrupt and racist." Ross, the commissioner, said the gunman had at least an AR-15 military-style weapon and a handgun. On Thursday, politicians from Pennsylvania called for new gun-control measures. Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney told reporters called on state and federal lawmakers to "step up or step aside" and let cities deal with the problem themselves. He did not give specifics on what he wanted



Police take shooting suspect, Maurice Hill, into custody after an hourslong standoff with police, that wounded several police officers, in Philadelphia early Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

ed to see done.

The standoff started around 4:30 p.m. as officers went to a home in a north Philadelphia neighborhood of brick and stone rowhomes to serve a narcotics warrant in an operation "that went awry almost immediately," Ross said.

Many officers "had to escape through windows and doors to get (away) from a barrage of bullets," Ross said.

The six officers who were struck by gunfire have been released from hospitals.

Two other officers who were trapped inside the house for about five hours after the shooting broke out were freed by a SWAT team well after dark fell.

Ross said the reason he

made the unusual decision to be the person negotiating with Hill was because he was "so worried" about his officers stuck inside.

"I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I was 200 feet away," he said Thursday.

Three people who officers had taken into custody in the house before the shooting started were also safely evacuated, police said.

Police tried to push crowds of onlookers and residents back from the scene. In police radio broadcasts, officers could be heard calling for backup as reports of officers getting shot poured in. "There was just a lot of screaming and chaos," said Abdul Rahman Muhammad, 21, an off-duty medic. □

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Judge: Georgia must scrap old voting machines after 2019



This May 22, 2018, file photo, shows a voter access card inserted in a reader during voting in the Georgia primary in Kennesaw, Ga.

Associated Press

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal judge overseeing a challenge to Georgia's outdat-

ed voting system said that after years of inaction in the face of warnings about vulnerabilities, state officials have finally taken a

solid step in the right direction. But she foreshadowed a looming fight over the state's new system, writing that "it may be 'like déjà vu all over again.'"

U.S. District Judge Amy Totenberg's order on Thursday prohibits the state from using its antiquated paperless touchscreen machines and election management system beyond this year. She also said the state must be ready to use hand-marked paper ballots if its new system isn't in place for the March 24 presidential primary election.

"Georgia's current voting equipment, software, election and voter databases, are antiquated, seriously flawed, and vulnerable to failure, breach, contamination, and attack," she wrote.

Totenberg also said the plaintiffs would likely win at trial, citing "the mountain of voter testimony showing that these vulnerabilities have a tangible impact on these voters' attempts to exercise their fundamental right to cast a ballot and have their vote counted." Election integrity advo-

cates and individual voters sued Georgia election officials in 2017 alleging that the touchscreen voting machines the state has used since 2002 are unsecure and vulnerable to hacking. They had asked Totenberg to order an immediate switch to hand-marked paper ballots.

Totenberg had declined a similar request last year ahead of last November's gubernatorial election, and she again held back from ordering an immediate switch on Thursday, citing concerns about the state's capacity to make an interim switch to hand-marked paper ballots for special and municipal elections this fall while also working to implement a new system.

This ruling applies only to Georgia, but at least parts of eight other states still use paperless balloting. Using voter registration and turnout data, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law estimated in a report this week that as many as 12% of voters, or around 16 million people, will vote on paperless equipment in November 2020.

Georgia's new system, following specifications approved by the Republican-led state legislature, was certified last week by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who said it will be in place for the primaries. The state's \$106 million contract with Denver-based Dominion Voting Systems includes new touchscreen voting machines that print a paper record with a code that's read by a scanner. The plaintiffs in this lawsuit have said the new machines have many of the same vulnerabilities as the old ones. They also object to the fact that the portion of the printed record that's read by the scanner is a QR code, not human-verifiable text, meaning voters have to trust that the code accurately reflects their selections.

Totenberg praised the legislation providing for a new system as "an essential step forward out of the quagmire, even if just to termi-

nate use of an antiquated vulnerable voting system."

"The wisdom or legal conformity of the Secretary of State's selection of a new vendor's particular ballot system though is not the question now before the Court," she wrote, adding in a footnote that a report last year from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends the use of paper ballots because of the vulnerabilities of electronic systems.

Perhaps alluding to the fact that the plaintiffs have said they plan to challenge the new system in court, Totenberg quoted baseball legend Yogi Berra, writing: "The past may here be prologue anew — it may be 'like déjà vu all over again.'"

The state, she wrote, has "previously minimized, erased, or dodged the issues underlying this case." For that reason, she wrote, she devoted space in her 153-page order to meticulously recounting the history of the case and related actions, or inaction, by the state "to ensure transparency for the future."

Both sides in the case saw victory in Totenberg's order. "(W)e are pleased the Court endorsed the policy decisions of the state's elected officials to move to a new paper ballot voting system in time for the 2020 elections while not disrupting the 2019 elections," Raffensperger said in an emailed statement. "These activist plaintiffs continue fruitlessly attempting to force their preferred policy outcomes on Georgia voters without success."

Marilyn Marks, executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance, one of the plaintiffs in the case, wrote in an email that it was important that Totenberg "recognized Plaintiffs concerns about the State's plan to move to another form of electronic voting — electronic ballot marking devices." The voters' right to accountable elections requires hand-marked paper ballots counted by optical scanners with thorough audits, she wrote. □

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Michael Avenatti blames arrest on 'vindictive' prosecutors

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyer Michael Avenatti wants a judge to dismiss criminal charges that he extorted Nike, and he is blaming his arrest on what he calls vindictive prosecutors as he releases material his attorneys say support his claims the sportswear company was paying amateur athletes.

Avenatti's attorneys filed papers Wednesday in Manhattan federal court, saying the lawyer who gained fame by representing porn star Stormy Daniels and by sparring on social media with President Donald Trump is being unfairly targeted by the Justice Department.

The lawyers wrote that Avenatti was facing criminal charges in part because of "his aggressive public persona, long feud with President Trump, and brief entanglement with" New York prosecutors who blamed him for spoiling a planned meeting with Daniels last year in their probe of ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen.

Cohen is serving a three-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to charges. "President Trump, the leader of the Executive Branch, and his family have demonstrated genuine animus toward Mr. Avenatti," the lawyers said. "President Trump's son, Donald Trump, Jr., gleefully celebrated on Twitter when Mr. Avenatti was arrested on March 25." Prosecutors declined through a spokesman to comment.

Avenatti has pleaded not guilty to charges he tried to extort up to \$25 million from Nike by threatening to pub-

licize claims the sportswear company enabled payouts to promising young athletes and their families. Avenatti represented Daniels over a nondisclosure deal regarding Daniels' claims that she had an affair with Trump.

Avenatti is also charged separately with defrauding Daniels in a book deal, and he faces federal fraud charges in California related to clients. He has denied wrongdoing.

Meanwhile, Avenatti's lawyers gave a glimpse of some of the alleged wrongdoing within Nike that Avenatti claimed he referenced with their lawyers before his arrest. The lawyers said "widespread corruption of amateur basketball at Nike" was revealed in evidence given to Avenatti's lawyers as they prepare for a November trial.

They cited, for instance, proof that an unspecified University of Kentucky men's basketball assistant coach exchanged text messages with a Nike youth league director alleging that the company's plan to pay elite high school players included New Orleans rookie and No. 1 overall draft pick Zion Williamson, as well as Romeo Langford, chosen 14th in the NBA draft by the Boston Celtics. There was no claim a payment was made.

The filing said Nike Elite Youth Basketball League director Carlton Debose acknowledged texting the Wildcats assistant that Nike paid players "through at least ten different" Elite League coaches.

The filing also said a Nike executive who led "Event Strategy" for the Elite

League told a colleague "about carrying large amounts of cash through airport security and indicated that she would lie and 'just say I just sold my car' if she got stopped."

Nike said in a statement: "Nike will not respond to the allegations of an individual facing federal charges of fraud and extortion." □



In this July 23, 2019 file photo, California attorney Michael Avenatti makes a statement to the press after leaving a courthouse in New York.

Associated Press



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Continued from Front

The two newly-elected Muslim members of Congress are outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and have repeatedly sparred with Trump over a range of issues. Tlaib's family immigrated to the United States from the West Bank, where she still has close relatives. They had planned to visit Jerusalem and the West Bank on a tour organized by a Palestinian organization aimed at highlighting the plight of the Palestinians. It was not immediately clear if they had planned to meet with Israeli officials, and spokespeople for the two congresswomen did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is "open to critics and criticism," except for those who advocate boycotts against it. "Congresswomen Tlaib and Omar are leading activists in promoting the legislation of boycotts against Israel in the American Congress," Netanyahu charged. He said their itinerary "revealed that they planned a visit whose sole objective is to strengthen the boycott against us and deny Israel's



In this Feb. 5, 2019 file photo, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., left, joined at right by Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., listen to President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech, at the Capitol in Washington. Associated Press

legitimacy."

Omar denounced the decision as "an affront" and "an insult to democratic values."

"This is not a surprise given the public positions of Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has consistently resisted peace efforts, restricted the freedom of movement of Palestinians, limited public knowledge of the brutal realities of the occupation and aligned himself with

Islamophobes like Donald Trump," Omar said in a statement.

Shortly before the decision was announced, Trump had tweeted that "it would show great weakness" if Israel allowed them to visit. "They hate Israel & all Jewish people, & there is nothing that can be said or done to change their minds." He went on to call the two congresswomen "a disgrace."

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, endorsed the decision after it was made, saying Israel "has every right to protect its borders" against promoters of boycotts "in the same manner as it would bar entrants with more conventional weapons."

Trump's decision to urge a foreign country to deny entry to elected U.S. officials was a striking departure from the long-held practice of politicians from both parties of leaving their disputes at the water's edge. Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. Congress denounced Israel's decision. Top ranking Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York said it was a sign of weakness instead of strength and "will only hurt the U.S.-Israeli relationship and support for Israel in America." A close freshman colleague of the two lawmakers, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, said Israel's move is "bigoted, short sighted and cruel."

Israel has sought to combat the BDS movement, which advocates boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israeli businesses, universities and cultural institutions. The country passed a law permitting a ban on entry to any activist who "knowingly issues a call for boycotting Israel."

Last month, Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer had said Israel would not deny entry to any member of Congress.

The interior ministry said in statement Thursday that "the state of Israel respects the American Congress, in the framework of the close alliance between the two countries, but it's unacceptable to allow the entrance to the country of those who wish to harm the state of Israel, especially during their visit."

Israel said it would consider any request from Tlaib to visit relatives on humanitarian grounds.

Supporters of the boycott movement say it is a non-violent way to protest Israeli policies and call for Palestinian rights. Critics say the boycott movement aims to delegitimize Israel and ultimately erase it from the map, replacing it with a binational state.

Israel often hosts delegations of U.S. representatives and senators, who usually meet with senior Israeli officials as well as Palestinian officials in the occupied West Bank. Israel controls

entry and exit points to the West Bank, which it seized along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek these territories for their future state.

MIFTAH, the Palestinian organization that was set to host Tlaib and Omar in the West Bank, issued a statement saying that Israel's decision was "an affront to the American people and their representatives" and "an assault on the Palestinian people's right to reach out to decision-makers and other actors from around the world."

The move could further sharpen divisions among Democrats over Israel ahead of the 2020 elections. Republicans have amplified the views of left-wing Democrats like Tlaib and Omar to present the party as deeply divided and at odds with Israel. Democratic leaders have pushed back, reiterating the party's strong support for Israel, in part to protect representatives from more conservative districts.

In July, the Democratic-led House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution against the BDS movement.

Tlaib and Omar have also been the target of repeated attacks by President Donald Trump in recent months, including a series of racist tweets on July 14 in which he said they should "go back" to the "broken" countries they came from. Both are U.S. citizens and Tlaib was born in the United States. The two are members of the so-called "Squad" of newly-elected left-wing Democrats, along with Pressley and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

Dan Shapiro, U.S. ambassador to Israel under President Barack Obama, said that he knew of "no such precedent" for Israel barring an elected American official from entering the country, calling the decision "short-sighted."

"There's no reason to prevent members of Congress, including critical ones, from coming, seeing and learning, offering them every possible briefing," Shapiro said. □



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Italy's PM: Salvini 'obsessed' with blocking migrants at sea

ROME (AP) — A humanitarian boat carrying 147 migrants rescued at sea was eventually allowed to let nine persons disembark Thursday night on a tiny Italian island, but the others were stuck aboard for a 15th night, as the drama was swept up in Italy's rapidly worsening government crisis.

With a political standoff exacerbated by the migration issue, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte rebuked his interior minister for being "obsessive" about closing Italian ports in a migrant crackdown.

The Spanish rescue boat Open Arms tweeted that the "urgent" evacuation of five persons was authorized for psychological reasons and four family members were allowed to accompany them. The nine were transferred by the Italian coast guard in a motorized rubber dinghy.

The fate of the remaining 138 migrants stayed unresolved.

"We continue to not have authorization to disembark the other persons aboard," Open Arms said. "This will be their 15th night" sleeping on the crowded ship, which has described deteriorating medical and hygiene conditions.

In an open letter to Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, Conte rebuked the right-wing leader of the junior coalition League party for his "obsessive concentration in facing the theme of immigration, reducing it to a 'closed ports' formula." Salvini shot back at a news



A migrant reads verses of the Quran aboard the Open Arms Spanish humanitarian boat as it arrives near Lampedusa coast in the Mediterranean Sea, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

conference that he was "proud" of his "obsession," saying that he is determined to keep Italy safe and its borders secured, because "that's what Italian citizens pay me for."

"I'd expect a 'thank you' not a follow-up with insults," Salvini later told Sky TG24 TV.

While other private rescue boats have been caught up in standoffs caused by Salvini's policy of refusing docking to charity boat, the Open Arms' crew and migrants risked being collateral damage in Italy's rapidly worsening government crisis.

Last week, Salvini's League brought a non-confidence motion against Conte's 14-month-old populist government. No date has been set for the showdown in the Senate, which could trigger

the government's collapse. Earlier on Thursday, Spain and five other nations agreed to take who were aboard Open Arms.

But the ad hoc offers by fellow European Union nations did little to calm the political turmoil that could lead to early elections that the euro-skeptic Salvini hopes will give him the premiership in his quest to move Italy farther to the right.

In the open letter posted on Facebook, Premier Giuseppe Conte accused his interior minister of "disloyal cooperation ... that I cannot accept."

Earlier this week, Conte had urged Salvini to allow the disembarking of the 32 minors, but the interior minister ignored the appeal. On Wednesday, a Rome-based administrative court overruled Salvini's ban on

letting Open Arms sail into Italian waters. In defiance, Salvini again banned the ship from Italian waters and from docking at Lampedusa. Defense Minister Elisabetta Trenta, to whom the Italian navy answers, refused to countersign it.

Trenta said she acted "listening to my conscience." "We can't forget that behind the polemics of these days there are children and youths who suffered violence and every kind of abuse," she said.

Trenta is from the 5-Star Movement, the senior coalition party, which backs Conte.

Salvini insists that other EU nations accept more migrants, most of whom are fleeing poverty and aren't eligible for refugee status. Conte in his letter announced that France, Ger-

many, Romania, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg said they're willing to take the migrants on Open Arms. Salvini's League stokes fears that migrants are to blame for crime and feeds resentment among his voter base against Brussels for its lack of solidarity, since EU rules hold that migrants must apply for asylum in the country where they set foot.

Salvini is openly campaigning to be Italy's next premier even though no new elections have been set. He seized upon the Open Arms stalemate, the latest in a series of standoffs, to blame Italy's migrant plight on the previous center-left governments led by the Democratic Party (PD), now Parliament's biggest opposition force.

"It's thanks to this presumed concept of 'humanity' that in years of the PD governments that Italy became the refugee camp of Europe," Salvini said on Facebook.

Maneuvering this week among Italy's political leaders has raised the possibility of the 5-Stars forging an alliance with the Democrats to thwart Salvini's quest for the premiership.

Even as the fighting over Open Arms played out, another migrant rescue boat drama loomed.

The Ocean Viking, a Norwegian ship operated by Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranée, was awaiting word of where it can safely disembark 356 migrants it rescued from traffickers' unseaworthy boats. □

Thousands of Yemenis rally in support of separatists in Aden

AHMED AL-HAJ
NOHA ELHENNAWY
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Thousands of Yemenis rallied Thursday in the port city of Aden in support of southern separatists who seized the city from the country's internationally recognized government amid diplomatic efforts aimed at reinstating forces loyal to the Saudi-backed president. Yemeni military officials said a Saudi Arabia-United Arab Emirates commission arrived to monitor the withdrawal of separatist forces from government headquarters and military camps seized last week from President Abel Rabbo Mansour Hadi's presidential guards after four days of fighting that left more than 70 people dead, including civilians. Officials in Hadi's camp said that forces loyal to the so-called Southern Transitional Council, which represents the separatists, had withdrawn from the presidential palace. Yet, they still remained in key positions in Aden, which has served as the seat of Hadi's interim



In this Friday Aug. 9, 2019 frame grab from video, Southern Transitional Council separatist fighters line up to storm the presidential palace in the southern port city of Aden, Yemen.

Associated Press

government since 2014. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief the media. But as their supporters rallied, separatist forces waged a series of attacks against Hadi's forces and supporters, according to government statements, prompting the closure of some government agencies, including the Interior and Foreign Affairs ministries.

All flights run by Yemeni state-run airlines were diverted from Aden to Sayoun, some 720 kilometers (450 miles) away, leaving Sayoun the only airport under the control of Hadi's government. A top Yemeni commander, Mahran al-Qubati, told The Associated Press that UAE-backed forces raided his compound in Aden's Dar Saad district, assaulting family members and taking computers and

documents. He said in an interview via WhatsApp that the fighters caused panic among his children when they opened fire on his house and some family members were arrested. Al-Qubati, a Hadi loyalist and commander of the presidential guards, escaped last week's armed assault targeting his barracks but was wounded Thursday during fighting that ended with the UAE-backed forces seizing con-

trol of his compound. Photos he sent to the AP show bullet marks on the walls of his house and he urged the Hadi's government to protect his family.

Late on Thursday the STC issued a statement affirming that its goal is to restore an "autonomous state of the south." Both the separatists and Hadi's government are allies within a Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting northern Yemen-based rebels, known as Houthis, since 2015.

The UAE is a key member of the coalition. However, it never threw its full support behind Hadi because of his ties to Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood group, a pan-Arab movement that many Arab countries, including UAE, consider to be a terrorist organization. After the UAE-backed separatists seized control of Aden and kicked Hadi's forces out of their camps, the Saudi-led coalition ordered an immediate cease-fire and threatened to bomb the separatists if they did not return to positions they held before the fighting. □

Iraq takes security measures following mysterious blasts

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq on Thursday banned unauthorized flights and ordered all military camps and munitions warehouses to be moved outside Iraqi cities following a massive explosion at a munitions depot southwest of Baghdad that killed one civilian and wounded 13 earlier this week.

The exact cause of Monday night's explosion at the al-Saqr military base is still unknown. The blast shook the Iraqi capital and sent explosives and mortar shells shooting into the sky, damaging nearby homes and terrifying residents who ran into the streets with their cellphones. Black smoke billowed over the city for hours afterward.

The federal police base houses a weapons depot belonging to a militia



In this Monday, Aug. 12, 2019 photo, plumes of smoke rise after an explosion at a military base southwest of Baghdad, Iraq.

Associated Press

group under the umbrella of the mainly Iran-backed militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces. The state-sanctioned PMF militias have fought alongside Iraq's regular armed forces against the Islamic State group. Some officials blamed the

explosion at the base, also known as Falcon Camp, on faulty storage that caused overheating amid typically high temperatures in Baghdad. But the blast has also given rise to a host of theories, including that Israel may have conducted an airstrike.

Israel has struck Iranian bases in neighboring Syria on numerous occasions, and there has been speculation that it might be expanding its campaign to target Iranian bases to Iraq. However, neither the Iraqi government nor Israel have addressed the reports.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi ordered a "thorough investigation" into the incident, ordering the investigation be concluded within a week.

In a statement issued Thursday following a national security meeting, Abdul-Mahdi ordered the cancellation of all aviation approvals for flights throughout the country, unless authorized by the commander of the armed forces. The statement did not specify military or civilian flights but specifically cited reconnaissance, fighter jets and helicopters and drones of all kinds.

It said the directives applied to "Iraqi and non-Iraqi parties." Iraq hosts American troops and forces belonging to the coalition fighting the Islamic State group, which sometimes conduct operations and airstrikes in the country.

The statement urged all parties to abide by the directives, stating that any other flight activity "will be considered (an) enemy flight and dealt with from our air defenses immediately."

The statement called for the transfer of warehouses and camps belonging to the defense and interior ministries and the PMF and other factions that participated in fighting IS to be moved outside the cities. It said violators will be "considered an irregular presence and dealt with in accordance with the law and order." □

Russian pilot safely lands jetliner disabled by bird strike

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian pilot whose passenger jet lost power in both engines after colliding with a flock of gulls shortly after take-off Thursday managed to land in a cornfield smoothly enough that only one of the 233 people on board was hurt seriously enough to be hospitalized.

The quick thinking of the captain, 41-year old Damir Yusupov, drew comparisons to the 2009 "miracle on the Hudson," when Capt. Chesley Sullenberger safely ditched his plane in New York's Hudson River after a bird strike disabled its engines.

Experts say the two near-tragedies could force aircraft makers and regulators to rethink engine designs so they can better withstand bird strikes, although technology to do that is not yet available.

Yusupov was hailed as a hero after the feat, and Russian television stations showed passengers standing in head-high corn next to the plane, hugging Yusupov and thanking him for saving their lives.

The Ural Airlines Airbus A321 was carrying 226 passengers and a crew of seven as it took off from Moscow's Zhukovsky Airport en route to Simferopol in Crimea.

Russia's Rosaviatsiya state aviation agency chief, Alexander Neradko, told reporters that the crew "made the only right decision" to immediately land the fully loaded plane with its wheels up after both of its engines malfunctioned. "The crew has shown courage and professionalism and deserve the highest state awards," he said, adding that the plane was fully loaded with 16 tons of fuel. "Just imagine what the consequences would be if the crew didn't make the correct decision."

The airline said Yusupov, the son of a helicopter pilot, is an experienced pilot who has logged over 3,000 flight hours. He worked as a lawyer before he changed course and joined a flight



In this video grab provided by the RU-RTR Russian television, a Russian Ural Airlines' A321 plane is seen after an emergency landing in a cornfield near Ramenskoye, outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

school when he was 32. A father of four, he has flown with Ural Airlines since his graduation in 2013. He became a captain last year. Yusupov's wife told Rossiya state television from their home in Yekaterinburg that he called her after landing, before she had heard about the emergency.

"He called me and said: 'Everything is fine, everyone is alive,'" she said. "I asked what was it, and he said that birds hit the engine and we landed in a field. I was horrified and in panic and burst into tears."

Russian officials immediately rushed to shower the pilot and crew with praise. President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, hailed the pilots as "heroes" and said they will receive state awards. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev opened a session of Cabinet by praising the crew and asking the transport minister to explain what happened.

The Emergencies Ministry said that 74 people asked for medical assistance after the incident. Health authorities said 23 people, including five children, were taken to the hospital, but all but one was released following check-ups.

Bird strikes on planes occur regularly around the world even though airports use bird distress signals, air

cannons and other means to chase them from runways. Smaller birds are usually chopped up by turbine fan blades, but engines aren't designed to withstand strikes from multiple birds or larger birds such as geese, said John Hansman, an aeronautics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Birds rarely disable both of a jet's engines, but with two cases reported in a decade, jet makers may have to redesign future engines to better resist such a strike, Hansman said.

"That's likely to be a discussion, just because the overall aviation system learns from incidents like this," he said, adding that risks and probabilities will have to be weighed.

John Goglia, a former member of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, said the bird-vs-engine problem has been under study for years, with no fix available at present. If engine components are made of heavier, stronger materials, there's a risk that they could crack and break off, striking the fuselage and injuring passengers, he said.

"As far as the engine being able to digest the larger birds, we don't have the technology," he said. "We don't have the metals. They

really pushed the envelope where we are today."

Airports could also deal with the problem on the ground by monitoring birds with radar and restricting takeoffs when large flocks are in the area, Hansman said.

Some Russian media reports suggested the birds could have been drawn to Zhukovsky Airport by an unauthorized garbage dump nearby, but there was no immediate confirmation of the claim.

On Jan. 15, 2009, a US Airways Airbus A320 piloted by Sullenberger hit a flock of geese after taking off from New York City's LaGuardia Airport and both of its engines shut down. The crew made an emergency landing in the Hudson River along midtown Manhattan and all 155 people aboard survived despite landing in frigid water.

The so-called "miracle on the Hudson" was immortalized in the Hollywood movie "Sully," based on the autobiography of Sullenberger and starring Tom Hanks. Pilots train often to fly with one engine disabled, but it's rare for birds to knock out both engines, experts say. Still, pilots do prepare to lose both engines and often know the safest places near an airport to land, said Goglia, who spoke often

about bird strike risks when he was an NTSB member.

Another problem is that many Canada geese, which caused Sullenberger's Hudson River emergency landing, are not migrating as often due to warmer temperatures blamed on climate change, so they're around northern airports for longer periods, Hansman said.

With both engines down, the Russian pilot was flying what essentially is a glider that he could control for a limited time. His toughest decision, Hansman said, was where to try to land.

"When you're in a glider, you've got a certain amount of altitude," he said. "You have to make the judgment what's the best place I can fly with the amount of energy I have left because I'm not getting any more from the engine." Besides a runway, a cornfield is a good place to land because it's free of big rocks and trees that could damage the plane, Goglia said.

The lack of deaths or serious injuries is an example of how the aviation safety system worked correctly, according to Hansman.

Aircraft seats are manufactured to protect passengers in cases like this, and the fuel tanks are designed to stay intact for a rough landing to prevent fires. And the pilots seemed to be well prepared for such an emergency, Hansman said.

"The pilot did a good job, but that's why he was there," he said. □



S. Korea's Moon calls for talks to end trade row with Japan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean President Moon Jae-in offered an olive branch to Japan to end an ongoing trade dispute Thursday, saying Seoul will "gladly join hands" if Tokyo wants to talk.

Moon in a nationally televised speech also downplayed the threat posed by North Korea's recent short-range ballistic launches and expressed hope that Washington and Pyongyang would soon resume nuclear negotiations.

"If a country weaponizes a sector where it has a comparative advantage, the order of peaceful free trade inevitably suffers. A country that accomplished growth first must not kick the ladder away while others are following in its footsteps," Moon said in reference to Japan.

"If Japan better late than never chooses the path of dialogue and cooperation, we will gladly join hands," he said.

Moon's speech at a cer-



People watch a TV screen showing a live broadcast of South Korean President Moon Jae-in's speech during a ceremony to celebrate the Korean Liberation Day at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

emony marking the 74th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule at the end of World War II came amid heightened public anger and diplomatic fallout over Tokyo's recent moves to impose

trade curbs on South Korea.

Seoul has accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to target its export-dependent economy and retaliate against South Korean court rulings calling for Jap-

anese companies to offer reparations to South Koreans forced into labor during World War II. Tokyo's measures struck a nerve in South Korea, where many still harbor resentment over Japan's ruthless colonial

rule from 1910 to 1945.

After threatening stern countermeasures and declaring that South Korea would "never lose" to Japan again, Moon has taken a more conciliatory tone over the past week as there was relief in Seoul that the impact of Japan's trade measures might not be as bad as initially thought.

There have also been concerns that the government's nationalistic calls for unity were allowing public anger toward Japan to reach dangerous levels.

Nevertheless, tens of thousands of people were expected join anti-Japan protests planned for Thursday, including an evening candlelit vigil near Seoul's presidential palace.

Thousands of protesters dressed in raincoats marched in heavy rain toward the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. They carried signs that said "Apologize for War Crimes" and "Compensate Forced Laborers." □

Venezuela's Maduro battles for control of US-based refinery

By **SCOTT SMITH**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The government of President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday nullified the newly named board of Venezuela's prized Citgo refineries in the U.S. amid a political battle for control of the country, saying opposition leaders had no right to appoint them.

The battle over the nation's most valuable foreign asset comes as Maduro fends off opposition leader Juan Guaidó, whose claim to Venezuela's presidency is backed by the United States and more than 50 other nations.

The opposition-run National Assembly appointed the 15-member Citgo board early this year after Guaidó declared presidential powers, arguing that Maduro's re-election was illegitimate. Maduro maintains power with backing from the military and allies such as Cuba, Russia and China. Citgo is valued at an es-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and first lady Cilia Flores, right, lead a rally condemning the economic sanctions imposed by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump on Venezuela, in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

timated \$8 billion and includes three refineries in Louisiana, Texas and Illinois, in addition to a network of pipelines. Citgo is also at the center of court battles, such a lawsuit filed by Cry-

tallex, which seeks to liquidate Citgo for payment following a disputed takeover of the Canadian mining firm by Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez.

Russ Dallen, head of the

Miami-based Caracas Capital Markets brokerage firm, said U.S. courts have already weighed in on who controls Citgo, deferring to the U.S. government's recognition of Guaidó as Ven-

ezuela's president, therefore recognizing his board appointments.

"It does show they are stepping up the attacks on the opposition," Dallen said of the Maduro government's latest move. "They're going to try to make it as painful as possible for anybody who sides with Guaidó."

State comptroller Elvis Amoroso, who made the announcement on state TV, also said the ad-hoc board members are banned from leaving the country and their Venezuelan bank accounts have been frozen. But it is unclear whether any of them continue to live in the South American country. Amoroso also said another five leading figures opposed to Maduro have been banned from politics for 15 years. They including former Attorney General Luisa Ortega, former Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma and three opposition lawmakers, all of whom are living in self-imposed exile. □

LOCAL

New Commander for the Dutch Marines of Aruba

SAVANETA — Lieutenant-Colonel of Marines Timon van Dishoeck transferred the command over to rank mate Art van Beekhuizen, after serving as commander for 3 years. On Wednesday August 14th, 2019 in the presence of the Commander of the naval forces in the Caribbean, Brigadier General of the Marines de Vin; the Governor of Aruba, Boekhoudt; various local authorities, and invited guests and the staff working in the barracks.

Departing Commander Lieutenant Colonel of Marines van Dishoeck looked back on the intense period of his command at 'the most beautiful barracks' in his opinion. What the Commander takes with him is a lasting impression of the lightness of life on Aruba, the deployment of the soldiers from Aruba after the passing of Hurricane Irma and organizing large events including a tour around Aruba, and the

yearly Open House of the Marines barracks.

"I hereby declare taken over the command of the Marines barracks," said the new Commander addressing his crew and emphasizing on the importance of teamwork and commitment. "If the cooperation here on Aruba leads to sincere commitment, there is nothing standing in our way preventing our success. At the end of the day, it is important to note that you are not alone but you can rely on sincere support," said the new Commander.

After the ceremony, guests were given the opportunity to say goodbye to outgoing Commander and to congratulate the incoming Commander. Van Dishoeck and his family will be departing next week to the Netherlands. After a short vacation, he will start his new function as a liaison between the Department of Defense and the second Room in The Hague. □



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ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has 5 great columnists that contribute to our newspaper with their knowledge and creativity. Please let us introduce to you Steve, Shanella, Anthony, Thais en Joris. They would for sure appreciate your comment on their columns so feel free to express yourself!



Creative Islander by Thais Franken

Currently, Thais Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thais is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.



Island Insight by Anthony Croes of Etnia Nativa

Anthony Croes is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a child, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that Aruba Today welcomed him as a columnist.



Hotel Hustle by Shanella Pantophlet

Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.



Today's Catch by Joris Zandvoort

Dutch Joris Zandvoort is a writer at Fisherbooker.com. He writes a monthly fisher report for Aruba Today. The company works with 17 captains in Aruba that help him create this report containing information like: What is currently in the water? What can you catch? Also amazing pictures are being shared and part of the column shows The Captain of The Month.



Today's Click by Steve Francees

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots.



Our newest column: Happy Community Initiative

The Happy Community Initiative is a visitor charity program that you can help build Aruba's community strong by doing a donation to good causes. CEDE Aruba, a dynamic community foundation, and the Aruba Timeshare Association (Atsa) collaborates in this platform for visitors who would like to make a donation, but also volunteer in the future. Happy Community Initiative, published bi-weekly, every Thursday in Aruba Today.

We invite you to go to our website www.arubatoday.com and read all their great articles. ☐



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Don and Paula Tucker from USA!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, safety, and Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort's staff and excellent consistent service.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



Effective Attention where the patient is Central: Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) brings innovation to the healthcare in Aruba: Now offering the Ultrasound service



ORANJESTAD — Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) proudly announces that after hard work, dedication and investing in the latest top tech equipment they are finally able to offer the community of Aruba a private service of Ultrasound. Currently Ultrasound and other images diagnostics are considered fundamental methods in helping detect and treat patients' severe and chronic diseases.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a type of imaging. It uses high-frequency sound waves to look at organs and structures inside the body. Health care professionals use it to view the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, liver, and other organs. At Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) the radiologist is the one conducting the ultrasound procedure and at the same time he is able to interpret it immediately. The benefit of this is that the patient will be able to receive the diagnostic right away. The doctor reading the diagnostic is specialized in this area and is also registered at the Department of Public Health of Aruba. "Many people need access to the ultrasound service, this is a very economical study compared to other studies. It is not invasive since it doesn't use ionizing radiation," according to General Director of Urgent Care Aruba, Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr.

Latest technology

Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) at the Medical Centre in Noord procured to put this ultrasound unit into function with the sole purpose to offer

a more integral and efficient service to the patient, that way the patient and doctor would have a more accurate diagnosis. The general strategy of this image service is centralized on a fundamental objective: provide the best attention possible to the users based on quality and policies stated internationally. This way Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) is always looking for improvements in the services they provide. They also assure to provide good service to their patients by exceeding their expectations and strive for continuous excellency.

Accessible and Timely

The patient doesn't need to wait a week or a month to get an appointment. The patient can get same day assistance at the Noord Medical Center. The patient is also able to choose the day or time of his/her convenience. The department is open from Monday to Saturday and in cases that an ultrasound needs to be done they are also available after working hours. The patient will receive a detailed medical report from the doctor with ample explanation on the study conducted. With affordable prices the UCA reaffirms its commitment to the community of Aruba.



Dr. Yagua Jr (UCA Director) and Dr. Lopez-McIntyre (Radioloog Specialista)

Urgent Care Aruba

Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) at the Noord Medical center was established 5 years ago. Their main goal was to provide medical attention to our locals but also our tourist. The service provided at UCA is for patients that suffers from any medical condition and does not want to wait till the next day for a consult or checkup. □



Contact

For more information please call +297-5860448. Or visit their website: www.urgentcare.aw or Facebook page: Urgent Care Aruba.

Honoring loyal and friendly visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort



PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Dianne Marzigliano**, together with **Walter, Victor and Julia Hines**.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, the delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □

SPORTS



In this April 15, 2019, file photo, then-Golden State Warriors center DeMarcus Cousins reacts after injuring his leg during the first half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Los Angeles Clippers in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Lakers' Cousins tears ACL in left knee, awaiting surgery

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins is facing rehab from another major injury, and the Los Angeles Lakers have endured their first big problem of a season with championship expectations. Cousins was diagnosed Thursday with a torn ACL in his left knee, an injury that could sideline the six-time All-Star big man for much — if not all — of this coming season. Cousins' agent, Jeff Schwartz of Excel Sports Management, said a timeline for surgery is being discussed.

Cousins, who spent last season with Golden State, got hurt earlier this week in a workout in Las Vegas. The ACL tear comes about 18 months after he ruptured his left Achilles tendon, and roughly four months after he tore his left quadriceps muscle during this past season's playoffs.

Continued on Page 22

DRIVER'S SEAT



Justin and Jason burn it up at BMW

Jason Kokrak reacts after missing a birdie putt on the 18th green during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Medinah, Ill.

Associated Press
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Thomas turns it around and shares lead at Medinah

By DOUG FERGUSON

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP) — On the range, Justin Thomas had no idea where the ball was going. Some five hours later, he had a share of the course record at Medinah. Ultimately, all that mattered Thursday in the BMW Championship was taking a good step toward an important goal. Thomas already is set for the Tour Championship next week and the chase for FedEx Cup and its \$15 million prize. That's not what interests him. "I don't give a crap about the money," he said. "It's about winning tournaments."

He made his first birdie after hitting a tree on the fourth hole, leaving him a 5-iron he hit to 2 feet. His last birdie was a putt from about 60 feet on the fringe from the back of the 16th green. He did enough right in between for a 7-under 65 and a share of the lead with Jason Kokrak.

The others to post 65 at Medinah were Tiger Woods, Mike Weir and Skip Kendall at the PGA Championship in 1999 and 2006.

Woods won both those majors. Winning the second FedEx Cup playoff event might be a lot tougher.

One week after he withdrew with a mild oblique



Justin Thomas hits from the bunker on the 18th green during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Medinah, Ill.

Associated Press

strain at Liberty National, Woods could only manage a 71 that felt feeble compared with everyone else. All but two players in the 69-man field were at par or better on a Medinah course that was soft from bursts of rain earlier in the week.

Woods is projected to need a top 10 this week to advance to East Lake, where he is defending champion. After one round, he was tied for 50th.

"It's just not sharp," Woods said. "I'm trying to make changes in my swing, and it's just not quite there yet." The good news for Woods?

He says he didn't feel any tightness in his oblique.

"I just need to clean up my rounds and get going," he said. "Seems like the whole field is under par."

That starts with Thomas, who has not won since the World Golf Championship at Firestone a year ago. He wouldn't have thought such an opportunity might exist the way he warmed up on the range Thursday morning.

"I probably would say that I had the worst warmup I've ever had in my life this morning," he said.

The goal heading to the first tee was to find some-

thing that would allow him to get around without doing too much damage.

"I've had that happen plenty of times, just not quite that extreme," Thomas said.

"I'm usually pretty good at finding my way around a golf course and finding something, but definitely didn't expect that today."

Kokrak does have the Tour Championship on his mind. Along with a chase for the \$15 million, just getting to East Lake includes an invitation to the Masters, and he's never been. He played the par 5s in 5 under — including an eagle on No. 10 when he holed a 30-yard

shot from the rough — and made only one bogey.

Kokrak, who has never won in 207 starts as a pro on the PGA Tour, is No. 32 in the FedEx Cup. The top 30 after this week advance to the Tour Championship, where there will be a staggered start based on par for the final event.

The leader will start at 10 under. The 30th player will start at even par.

The goal for Kokrak is to get there.

"I thought about doing some number-crunching and seeing what I had to finish, but I think putting myself in a good position to win a golf tournament is going to get the job done," he said. "I don't think I need to worry about where I need to finish in the tournament. I'd rather go out and try to win."

They had a one-shot lead over 49-year-old Jim Furyk, a former FedEx Cup champion who hasn't been back to East Lake in five years. Patrick Cantlay, Joel Dahmen, Lucas Glover and Brandt Snedeker also were at 66, while the large group at 67 included Adam Scott, Xander Schauffele and Collin Morikawa.

Dahmen and Morikawa have a different outlook. □

Sister: Earnhardt Jr. safe after plane crash in Tennessee

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn. (AP)

— Dale Earnhardt Jr. is safe and in a hospital for evaluation after his plane crashed in east Tennessee, the NASCAR television analyst and retired driver's sister tweeted.

Earnhardt's sister, Kelley Earnhardt Miller, tweeted that the driver's wife, Amy, and 15-month-old daughter, Isla, also were on the plane along with two pilots. "Everyone is safe and has been taken to the hospital for further evaluation," she tweeted. "We will have no further information at this time."

Federal Aviation Administration officials said a Cessna Citation rolled off the end of a runway and caught fire after landing at



The burned remains of a plane that was carrying NASCAR television analyst and former driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. lie near a runway Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Elizabethton, Tenn.

Associated Press

Elizabethton Municipal Airport at 3:40 p.m. Thursday. FAA officials said the preliminary indication is that two pilots and three passengers were aboard.

The National Transportation

Safety Board tweeted that it's sending two representatives to Elizabethton to begin investigating the crash. Carter County Sheriff's Office spokesman Thomas Gray confirmed Earnhardt

was aboard but said he wasn't one of the pilots.

Earnhardt retired as a full-time driver in 2017 and has been working as an analyst for NBC. He is part of the scheduled broadcast team for Saturday night's Cup Series event in Bristol, Tennessee.

This incident comes 26 years after former driver and 1992 Cup champion Alan Kulwicki died in a plane crash while on his way to the spring race at Bristol from a promotional appearance in Knoxville, Tennessee. That crash at Tri-City Regional Airport in Blountville, Tennessee, killed a total of four people. Earnhardt was part of Rick Hendrick's racing team in 2011 when Hendrick broke

a rib and a collarbone while on a small jet that lost its brakes and crash landed in an airport at Key West, Florida. Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces were among 10 people killed in a 2004 crash of a plane traveling to a race in Virginia.

This isn't the first fiery crash for Earnhardt. He still has a burn scar on his neck from a crash at Sonoma in 2004 during warmups for an American Le Mans Series race that left him with second-degree burns.

Earnhardt has a history of concussions that plagued him over his final years as a driver. He won NASCAR's most popular driver award a record 15 times with 26 career Cup victories. □

A ragged Federer ousted in Cincinnati; Barty advances

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — For Roger Federer, it was one big blur. The seven-time champion was ousted from one of his favorite tournaments in barely over an hour, falling in straight sets to a 21-year-old qualifier he'd never faced.

Andre Rublev — with only one career win over a top-five player to his credit — took advantages of Federer's numerous mistakes for a 6-3, 6-4 victory Thursday that further depleted the top of the men's bracket in the Western & Southern Open.

It was over shockingly fast — Federer's quickest defeat on the tour since 2003.

"To be honest, it's tough when it's fast like this to tell you, well, I could have done this or that," he said.

Federer has won the tournament more than anyone, using it as a springboard to the U.S. Open. He had 16 unforced errors against the 70th-ranked Rublev, who raised both fists and wiped a teary eye in celebration after Federer's forehand sailed long to end it.

Struggling with his serve, Federer got broken twice in the first set.

"And there you have it. It set the tone for the match a little bit," Federer said. "He was super clean — offense, defense, serving well. He didn't give me anything."

Federer, who lost a classic five-set match for the Wimbledon title to Novak Djokovic, thinks he's in good shape heading into the U.S. Open despite the upset in Cincinnati.

"I played 45 matches this year, so I think I should be fine," he said, smiling.

But oh, this last one.

And oh, what a wide-open tournament.

Second-seeded Rafael Nadal withdrew before the start of the tournament because of fatigue after winning the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Sunday. Djokovic was the only one of the Top 3 left in Cincinnati, set to play later in the

day.

Qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka followed his upset of sixth-seeded Kei Nishikori — a player he called his hero — by beating Alex De Minaur 7-5-6-4. It's the first time in 10 years that two qualifiers have reached the quarterfinals of an ATP Masters 1000 event.

The day began with the ATP fining Nick Kyrgios \$113,000 for expletive-filled outbursts that included smashing rackets, insulting a chair umpire and refusing to get ready to return serve during a second-round match the previous night.

In the women's bracket, top-seeded Ashleigh Barty reached the quarterfinals,

joined by a resurgent Venus Williams.

Barty beat Anett Kontaveit 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, raising her fist in triumph after fighting off one match point to take the 2-hour, 10-minute match. She was down a break in the second set before rallying on a day when she struggled to find consistency.

"The best thing is when my back was against the wall, the tennis was there," Barty said. "It may not have been there the whole match, but we were able to find it when we needed it."

Barty, the French Open champion and currently ranked No. 2, can move up to the top spot by reaching



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, returns to Andrey Rublev, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

the final.

With the crowd cheering for her, Williams recovered from a rough first set and beat Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, her best stretch of tennis in since she won three straight matches in March at Miami.

After a first-round loss in To-

ronto last week, her ranking slipped to No. 65, her lowest in seven years. With sister Serena cheering court-side, Venus reached the semifinals.

"I mean, I'm pretty pumped," Venus Williams said. "When you're winning, it's fun." □

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Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Sanchez, Yankees beat Orioles for 16th straight time, 6-5



New York Yankees' Gary Sanchez hits a home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, in New York.

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer and New York beat Baltimore for the 16th straight time this season. The Yankees went 17-2 against the O's, their most wins versus any opponent in a season since going 17-5 over the Kansas City Athletics in 1959. Sanchez's 10th homer against the Orioles this year capped a four-run burst in the first inning. Didi Gregorius hit an RBI single and Mike Ford hit a two-run single as the Yankees won their fifth straight. Renato Nunez had five hits, including a two-run double. Jonathan Villar drove in two runs for the last-place Orioles, who lost for the ninth time in 10 games. J.A. Happ (10-7) allowed two runs and six hits in five innings, striking out six and walking two. Aroldis Chapman converted his 33rd save in 38 chances. Dylan Bundy (5-13) allowed six runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

RED SOX 5, INDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rafael Devers homered and singled, extending his hit streak to eight straight at-bats, and Xander Bogaerts connected twice to lead Boston over Cleveland. Devers went 6 for 6 with four doubles Tuesday night. A day later, he singled in the first inning and hit a solo home run in the third before being retired on a comebacker in the fifth. Bogaerts hit a solo drive in the third — his 100th career homer — and a three-run shot in the seventh. Shane Bieber (12-5) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings, losing for the second time in 10 starts since June 25. Boston right-hander Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) working two innings for his first win since last Sept. 24.

CARDINALS 6, ROYALS 0
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Cardinals rookie Dakota Hudson tossed six innings of five-hit ball, Royals counterpart Brad Keller allowed a no-hit bid to crumble in spectacular fashion, and St. Louis went on to beat

Kansas City for a two-game sweep. Hudson (11-6) allowed runners to reach every inning but the third, but the 24-year-old right-hander kept getting timely double-plays, groundballs and fly outs. Hudson struck out five and walked two as the Cardinals won for the 13th time in his last 16 starts. They also won their eighth straight against their cross-state rival at Kauffman Stadium. Keller (7-13) issued three walks and was victimized by an early error, but he didn't allow a hit until Marcell Ozuna's sharp single leading off the seventh. It began a run of five consecutive base hits that not only knocked Keller from the game but ultimately resulted in a five-run frame.

ANGELS 7, PIRATES 4
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Albert Pujols had two hits and three RBIs and set the major league record for career hits by a foreign-born player, leading Los Angeles over Pittsburgh. Pujols had an RBI single in the 4th inning. His 3,167th

hit moved him past fellow Dominican Republic native Adrian Beltre (3,166) and into sole possession of 15th place for career hits. Luis Rengifo also drove in two runs for the Angels, who snapped a three-game home losing streak. Dillon Peters (3-1) allowed two runs in six innings while striking out six after an erratic start. Chris Archer (3-9) allowed four runs, three earned, in five innings, and his streak of starts without a win reached 12 games. It is the longest such span in Archer's eight-year career.

WHITE SOX 13, ASTROS 9
CHICAGO (AP) — James McCann hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the eighth inning and Chicago outlasted Houston to win the season series from the runaway AL West leaders. Rookie Eloy Jiménez hit his 20th homer and doubled, and Tim Anderson doubled twice among four hits for the White Sox. Following a doubleheader split on Tuesday, Chicago (54-65) took two of three games

from the Astros in a little over 24 hours and finished 4-3 against them this year. Houston has lost three of four following an eight-game winning streak. McCann lined his 13th homer on an 0-2 pitch from Ryan Pressly (2-3) with two outs into the right field bullpen to end a 16-game drought. The All-Star catcher hadn't gone deep since July 22, but connected for his fourth career grand slam.

TIGERS 3, MARINERS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Victor Reyes hit a two-run single in the second inning and Detroit held on to beat Seattle. Harold Castro had three hits for Detroit while catcher Jake Rogers threw out two baserunners to end innings. The Tigers improved to 4-6 with one game left in an 11-game homestand. Seattle has lost nine of 11. Edwin Jackson (3-5) allowed two runs on four hits and a walk in five innings. He struck out four and allowed two homers while winning his second straight start.

Marco Gonzales (12-6) gave up three runs on 11 hits in six innings.

RANGERS 7, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Kolby Allard pitched 5 2/3 innings to win for the first time with Texas, Elvis Andrus had four hits and two RBIs and the Rangers beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep. Nomar Mazara and Danny Santana hit solo home runs as the Rangers wrapped up a three-city trip by scoring more than five runs for the first time in that stretch of road games. The Rangers went 3-6 against Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Toronto, winning once against each opponent. Texas came in with two hits in its previous 40 at-bats with runners in scoring position, then went 4 for 12 in such situations Wednesday. Making his second start for the Rangers after being acquired from Atlanta last month, Allard (1-0) allowed three runs and four hits. The 22-year-old left-hander walked three and struck out five. □

Associated Press

Phillies beat up on Hamels, make Manuel's return a big hit

By The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — J.T. Realmuto hit a grand slam, Bryce Harper went deep twice and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Chicago Cubs 11-1 in Charlie Manuel's first game as hitting coach, ruining Cole Hamels' return home Wednesday night. Manuel was back in red pinstripes in his old dugout exactly six years to the day the franchise icon managed his last game for the Phillies. He heard "Charlie! Charlie! Charlie!" chants after Realmuto connected to make it 10-0 in the third. Hamels, the 2008 NLCS and World Series MVP with Manuel's Phillies, was roughed up in his first game in Philadelphia since he was traded to Texas in July 2015. Hamels (6-4) gave up eight runs and nine hits in two-plus innings. Aaron Nola (11-3) benefited from the offense's rare outburst. He allowed three hits, including Kris Bryant's homer, and struck out seven in seven innings. Hamels received the loudest applause during pregame introductions and got a standing ovation when he came to the plate already trailing 4-0 in the third. He wore longtime Phillies executive David Montgomery's initials on a uniform patch. Montgomery, who died in May after a five-year fight with cancer, had a close relationship with Hamels.

NATIONALS 17, REDS 7
WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthony Rendon, Kurt Suzuki and Adam Eaton hit homers in a 10-run fifth that included an RBI single from Stephen Strasburg (15-5), and Washington tacked on another six runs in the next inning to complete a three-game series sweep. This marked the first time since the Nationals moved from Montreal in 2005 that every member of the team's lineup scored in a single inning. The NL wild-card leaders broke loose against Trevor Bauer (1-1) for their biggest inning of

the season; they scored 11 in an inning at Colorado in 2017.

The sixth Wednesday wasn't too shabby, either, as Washington batted around again, much to the delight of a crowd of 23,596 that showed up for the unusual 4:05 p.m. weekday start. By the time that inning was done, the club's eight position players each had scored twice and the score was 17-4. The Nationals were well on their way to improving to 65-55, pushing them 10 games above .500 for the first time since June 2018.

DODGERS 9, MARLINS 1
MIAMI (AP) — Clayton Kershaw struck out the first seven batters he faced and matched a season high with 10 strikeouts in seven shutout innings as Los Angeles beat Miami. Kershaw (12-2) allowed two hits and retired the first 14 Miami batters before Harold Ramirez's two-out single to right in the fifth. The three-time Cy Young Award winner left after 90 pitches. Rookie Edwin Rios hit his first two major league homers. Justin Turner went 3 for 5 with a home run and Corey Seager homered and had three RBIs for the Dodgers, who have outscored Miami 34-2 in the last three games. Rios' second blast off Marlins starter Elieser Hernandez (2-5), a two-run shot that landed on the upper deck seats in right field, gave the Dodgers a 6-0 lead.

BRAVES 6, METS 4
ATLANTA (AP) — Tyler Flowers drove in a tiebreaking run with an infield hit, and Atlanta scored five runs off Seth Lugo in the seventh and survived a ninth-inning scare in a win over New York. The Mets have lost three straight, including the first two of the three-game series with Atlanta, after winning 15 of 16 to move up in the NL wild-card chase. J.D. Davis gave New York a 2-1 lead with a two-run single in the seventh, when Steven Matz had his sec-

ond bloop single to right field. After he was left in the game to hit, Matz was removed by manager Mickey Callaway after throwing only 79 pitches and allowing only two hits in six innings. Matz retired 14 consecutive batters before being lifted.

The move backfired when the NL East-leading Braves scored five runs on six singles off Lugo and Luis Avilán in the seventh. All five runs were charged to Lugo (5-3), who recorded only one out.

ROCKIES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 6
DENVER (AP) — Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to give Colorado the victory. After Trevor Story was hit by a pitch, Arenado launched a fastball from Archie Bradley (3-5) over the fence in left. It was Arenado's third career walk-off homer and first since June 18, 2017, against San Francisco. Arenado was doused with Powerade soon after crossing home plate and mobbed by teammates. Colorado ended a string of five straight losses to Arizona. The Rockies are 14-33 since June 21, one of the worst marks by winning percentage in the majors over the stretch.

ATHLETICS 9, GIANTS 5
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Matt Chapman homered twice, including a pivotal drive in the ninth inning that followed a late collapse by Oakland's bullpen, and the Athletics held on to beat San Francisco. Homer Bailey (10-8) pitched seven scoreless innings and singled twice. Robbie Grossman also went deep and made a sliding catch in left, and Matt Olson added a two-run double to help the A's earn a split of the two-game series between Bay Area rivals. Mike Yastrzemski homered for San Francisco, which had won three straight. Chapman homered off Tyler Beede (3-7) in the first and added another solo



Chicago Cubs' Cole Hamels, right, waits as Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper runs the bases with a two-run home run during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

shot off Trevor Gott in the ninth after the Giants had trimmed a 7-0 lead to 7-5.

BREWERS 6, TWINS 5
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Rookie Trent Grisham hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, and Milwaukee rallied to beat Minnesota. The Brewers trailed 5-3 when Grisham, batting leadoff in his 11th game in the majors, blasted a 2-2 fastball from Sergio Romo (2-1) into the right-field stands. Ryan Braun reached on a throwing error by shortstop Jorge Polanco and Hernán Pérez singled before Grisham went deep. Junior Guerra (6-3) worked two scoreless innings for Milwaukee. Mitch Garver, Eddie Rosario and Miguel Sanó each hit solo homers for the Twins, who have a major league-leading 233 home runs this season. The record is 267, set last year by the Yankees.

PADRES 7, RAYS 2
SAN DIEGO (AP) — Cal

Quantrill contributed with his arm and bat as San Diego beat Tampa Bay for the first time in over nine years. San Diego had lost nine in a row to the Rays overall since June 23, 2010, in an interleague matchup that hasn't occurred too often. The Padres also posted their first home win over Tampa Bay — they were 0-3 against the Rays in 2004 when Petco Park opened, and had dropped the first two games of this series. Eric Hosmer homered to help San Diego stop a three-game losing streak. Tampa Bay had won five in row, along with nine straight on the road. Quantrill (6-3) gave up a two-run homer to Tommy Pham in the first inning, but little else before leaving with one out in the sixth. He allowed three hits and walked one, striking out six. Rays starter Jalen Beeks (5-2) allowed five runs on eight hits in five innings. □

USA, Spain set to meet in a World Cup warmup

By TIM REYNOLDS

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)

— The U.S. and Spain are facing off Friday night, a matchup of the two top-ranked basketball teams in the world and a possible precursor to a medal-round meeting next month at the World Cup.

That might sound exciting. To the teams, not so much. Both the Americans and the Spaniards are going into the game in Anaheim feeling the same way — that they are still in the formative stage, working out kinks on the way to setting a final roster. That's why the teams also are making this much clear: What they show Friday won't be what they're hoping to show in China when the World Cup gets going.

"For sure, it won't be on our side," Spain coach Sergio Scariolo said. "We still have 14 players. Not all of our players are in 100 percent shape yet, and most of them are kind of in a load management in terms of their playing time. I think it's going to be a nice game between good teams ... but the final product, not at all."

Spain worked out Thursday at a high school in Playa Del Rey, while the Ameri-



In this July 26, 2018, file photo, head coach Gregg Popovich speaks with the media during a training camp for USA Basketball, in Las Vegas.

cans went through their last practice on U.S. soil back at the Los Angeles Lakers' practice facility. It's expected that the U.S. will have most of its 15 remaining players available Friday — Boston's Marcus Smart (who did some on-court work Thursday) probably

won't play while he works his way back from a calf strain, and Denver's Mason Plumlee left practice Thursday after his mouth got bloodied.

The Americans will leave for Australia on Saturday. The 12-man roster for China won't be set when

that plane takes off; the U.S. plan is to take at least 14 players to Australia for three exhibitions and at least three practices there, then set the final World Cup squad before heading to Shanghai around Aug. 28. So Friday will be in part about evaluation, part

about experience.

"We just want to get better," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "We're trying to form a basketball team. So familiarity and camaraderie is important, understanding who they're playing with, what each other does on the court, that's all new to our guys. Understanding how we want to play and the system we think we need to play to win, just taking further steps hopefully without skipping any."

The U.S. is ranked No. 1 in the world by basketball governing body FIBA, while Spain is ranked No. 2. Spain's roster features Marc Gasol of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors, plus Phoenix guard Ricky Rubio and former NBA guard and longtime Spanish national-team standout Rudy Fernandez.

DURANT, GREEN VISIT

The U.S. practice Thursday had a couple of visitors — Brooklyn's Kevin Durant and Golden State's Draymond Green. Durant, the MVP of the 2010 World Cup gold-medal run for the U.S., milled about and addressed players. Green exchanged a warm hug with his Warriors coach and U.S. assistant, Steve Kerr. □

Continued from Page 17

Those previous injuries cost him a lot of games and a lot of money.

This injury is only going to add to those totals.

"He was going to be a big part of what we're going to do," Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma said after USA Basketball practice at the Lakers' facility on Thursday, shortly after the severity of Cousins' injury was confirmed.

Plenty of players from around the NBA turned to social media to send Cousins messages of support, including Pau Gasol, who wrote "You will come back stronger brother." Golden State coach Steve Kerr — a U.S. assistant — said he was devastated for Cousins. Kerr also pointed out that the two games Golden State won against Toronto in last season's

NBA Finals, Games 2 and 5, were not coincidentally games where Cousins played particularly well for the Warriors.

"Injuries are part of the game but when you are talking about a player who has now dealt with the two most feared injuries for NBA players — the Achilles and ACL — each basically knocking you out for an entire season, to deal with that over a 2 ½-, three-year span, it's unheard of," Kerr said. "So I don't know. What a blow for him, for the Lakers. He's going to have to process it all and start all over again."

The Achilles tear preceded Cousins' 2018 trip to free agency, where he could have commanded a multi-year deal exceeding \$100 million. He wound up having to sign a one-year, \$5.3 million contract with Gold-



In this Jan. 26, 2018, file photo, then-New Orleans Pelicans center DeMarcus Cousins lies on the court while being tended to after an injury during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets in New Orleans.

Associated Press

en State.

And this summer, again after dealing with injury, Cousins had to settle for much less than the going rate for someone averaging more than 20 points

and 10 rebounds per game for his career. He signed with the Lakers on another one-year deal, this time for \$3.5 million.

"I've told y'all before I don't take any of this for grant-

ed," Cousins said in June, during the NBA Finals when he and the Warriors lost in six games to Toronto. "I've seen how quick this game can be taken away from you. So every chance I get to go out there and play, I'm going to leave it on the floor."

This could have been a massive year for Cousins, who was going to get a chance to play with LeBron James and reunite with his former New Orleans teammate Anthony Davis with the Lakers — a team with major aspirations after an offseason roster overhaul.

A big year could have set Cousins up for a significant contract next summer. It is now unclear if he'll play at all before he returns to the open market.

"It's been a couple years of hell for DeMarcus," Kerr said. □



In this July 7, 2019, file photo, the United States team celebrates after winning the Women's World Cup final soccer match against the Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France.

Associated Press

U.S. Soccer, team talks break down; likely head to jury trial

AP Sports Writer

Players for the World Cup champion women's national team say mediation talks with the U.S. Soccer Federation in their dispute over equal pay are over.

Molly Levinson, who represents the players in matters concerning the dispute, said in a statement Wednesday that the players look forward to a jury trial.

"We entered this week's mediation with representatives of USSF full of hope," Levinson said. "Today we must conclude these meetings sorely disappointed in the federation's determination to perpetuate fundamentally discriminatory workplace conditions and behavior."

U.S. Soccer said it had hoped to reach a resolution, but accused the counsel for the players of "an aggressive and ultimately unproductive approach."

"We value our players, and have continually shown that, by providing them with compensation and support that exceeds any other women's team in the world," the federation's statement said.

The players sued U.S. Soccer in March, charging institutionalized gender discrimination that includes inequitable compensation when compared with their

counterparts on the men's national team. The federation countered that pay and benefits for members of the men's and women's teams, bargained by separate unions, can't be compared and said there was no basis for allegations of illegal conduct.

The two sides agreed to mediate the matter once the Women's World Cup in France was over. The United States beat the Netherlands to win the title last month, and afterward fans in the crowd chanted "Equal Pay!"

Federation President Carlos Cordeiro wrote U.S. Soccer members in late July claiming the women's team was paid more overall than the men's team between 2010 and 2018.

The letter stated that the federation paid out \$34.1 million in salary and game bonuses to the women between 2010 and 2018 as opposed to \$26.4 million paid to the men. The total did not include the value of benefits received only by the women, like health care, Cordeiro wrote.

The players have disputed the figures, claiming they are misleading.

"It is clear that USSF, including its Board of Directors and President Carlos Cordeiro, fully intend to continue to compensate women players less than men. □



In this Aug 13, 2016, file photo, youngsters play in a pee-wee football game during halftime of a preseason NFL football game between the Los Angeles Rams and the Dallas Cowboys in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

USA Football pilots program to attract more young players

By LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

USA Football is piloting the game's first long-term development program in the hopes of growing the game and catching up to other sports around the world.

The sport's governing body launched its Football Development Model on Thursday, announcing six youth leagues will team up with USA Football in the hopes of attracting more young players and improving skills. The leagues will experiment with new ways to coach fundamentals in practice, aiming to hone skills while cutting down on full-speed contact that ends with players hitting the ground. The FDM also will encourage leagues to experiment with different ways to play the game, including flag football, padded flag football and modified games with smaller fields and fewer than 11 players on each team.

"We're looking at football in a fresh, new way," USA Football CEO Scott Hallenbeck said in an interview with The Associated Press. "These leagues around the country are willing to take on this challenge with us to change the narrative and culture of the game, which

is easy to say and hard to do.

"Hopefully, the Football Development Model will reimagine the sport to help parents gain confidence and trust and to address some of the challenges in the sport."

Likely due to the fear of concussions, participation in youth tackle football has declined sharply this decade.

There were more than one million children ages 6 to 12 playing tackle football each year from 2011 to 2013 and participated dipped to 839,282 in 2018 according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. Participation in flag football for the same age group, according to the SFIA, has increased from fewer than 700,000 in 2014 to nearly one million in 2018.

"My son started playing tackle football at 7 and I still wonder if that was the best thing to do," Hallenbeck said. "When you look at it from a skill-development lens, why can't flag football be like T-ball is for baseball? In flag, you can teach how to pass, catch, backpedal and get into a breakdown position defensively. You can learn how to play football without contact."

The program was crafted in part by a council of people with expertise in football, medical and child development along with long-term athlete development. "The FDM is a progressive approach for the development and safety of our players as they are learning the game," said Dartmouth coach Buddy Teevens, a member of the council. "This is 21st-century football that embraces the value of the team experience, fundamental skill instruction and contact reduction in an effort to teach the sport in a smarter and safer fashion." The Niagara Erie Youth Sports Association in New York, the Miami Xtreme Youth Football League, Texas' Frisco Football League, the Washington-Greene Youth Football League in Pennsylvania, the Iowa Development League in Des Moines and Utah's Ute Football Conference will pilot USA Football's new program. "The FDM is an athlete's roadmap — at any age — to enjoy the fun of football by participating in sport activities that are developmentally appropriate physically, mentally and socially," said NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline, chairman of the FDM council. □

Virgin Galactic reveals futuristic outpost for space tourism

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

UPHAM, N.M. (AP) —

Spaceport America is no longer just a shiny shell of hope that space tourism would one day launch from this remote spot in the New Mexico desert.

The once-empty hangar that anchors the taxpayer-financed launch and landing facility has been transformed into a custom-tailored headquarters where Virgin Galactic will run its commercial flight operations.

Two levels within the spaceport include mission control, a preparation area for pilots and a lounge for paying customers and their friends and families, with each element of the fit and finish paying homage to either the desert landscape that surrounds the futuristic outpost or the promise of traveling to the edge of space.

From hotel rooms to aircraft cabins, the Virgin brand touts its designs for their focus on the customer experience. Spaceport is no different.

Earthen tones help ground



Virgin Galactic ground crew guide the company's carrier plane into the hangar at Spaceport America following a test flight over the desert near Upham, New Mexico, on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

visitors on the first floor. The social hub includes an interactive digital walkway and a coffee bar made of Italian marble. On the upper deck, shades of white and gray speak to Virgin Galactic's more lofty mission.

Company officials, offering

the first glimpse of the facility Thursday, say the space is meant to create "an unparalleled experience" as customers prepare for what Virgin Galactic describes as the journey of a lifetime. Just how soon customers will file into Virgin Galactic's

newly outfitted digs for the first commercial flights has yet to be determined. A small number of test flights are still needed.

Billionaire Richard Branson, who is behind Virgin Galactic, and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson,

a Democrat, first pitched the plan for the spaceport nearly 15 years ago.

There were construction delays and cost overruns. Virgin Galactic's spaceship development took far longer than expected and had a major setback when its first experimental craft broke apart during a 2014 test flight, killing the co-pilot.

Critics suggested the project was a boondoggle, but supporters argued that there were bound to be hard and sometimes costly lessons.

Democratic state Sen. George Munoz has enduring concerns about the business model for commercial, low-orbit travel for passengers.

"You can have all the money in the world and come back and say, 'Was my 30 seconds of fame worth that risk?'" he said.

Munoz says New Mexico's anticipated return on investment in terms of jobs and visitors is still overdue, with more than \$200 million public funds spent on Spaceport America in cooperation with Virgin Galactic as anchor tenant. □



In this Tuesday, April 10, 2018 photo, a high school principal displays vaping devices that were confiscated from students at the school in Massachusetts.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

A vaping industry group sued the U.S. government on Wednesday to delay an upcoming review of thousands of e-cigarettes on the market.

The legal challenge by the Vapor Technology Association is the latest hurdle in the Food and Drug Administration's yearslong ef-

fort to regulate the multi-billion-dollar vaping industry, which includes makers and retailers of e-cigarette devices and flavored solutions.

The vaping group argued that the latest deadline of next May to submit products for review could wipe out many of the smaller companies. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Kentucky.

Vaping companies sue to delay U.S. review of e-cigarettes

E-cigarettes first appeared in the U.S. more than a decade ago and have grown in popularity despite little research on their long-term effects, including whether they can help smokers quit cigarettes.

In recent years, health authorities have warned of an epidemic of vaping by underage teenagers, particularly the leading brand Juul, known for its high nicotine content and easy-to-conceal device, which resembles a flash drive.

Nicotine is what makes both cigarettes and e-cigarettes addictive, and health experts say the chemical is harmful to developing brains.

San Francisco-based Juul is among 800 member companies of the vaping asso-

ciation.

The 2009 law that gave the FDA power over the traditional tobacco products did not mention e-cigarettes. And it wasn't until 2016 that the agency expanded its own regulations to include the devices. But since then FDA regulators have repeatedly pushed back the timeline, at one point until 2022, to begin review the legions of vaping products that have come to market.

Frustrated by the delays, anti-tobacco groups including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids sued the FDA to speed up the process. In June, a federal judge sided with the groups and set a deadline of next May for all companies to submit their products for

federal review. The FDA has until next month to appeal the decision.

The vapor group's lawsuit said the FDA has now set five different deadlines.

"It is time for FDA to stop moving the goalposts and changing the rules in the middle of the game to the detriment of our manufacturers and small businesses," said Tony Abboud, the group's executive director, in a statement.

Vaping executives have long said that most companies will not be able to afford to conduct large, expensive studies needed for FDA review. Only products that meet FDA standards would be permitted to be sold.

The FDA declined to comment on the lawsuit. □

US stocks steady after plunge, but caution still reigns

By STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks around the world remained stuck in the spin cycle Thursday, as worries about a possible recession collided with hopes that the strongest part of the U.S. economy — shoppers spending at stores and online — can keep going.

The S&P 500 clawed back some of its steep loss from a day earlier, when stocks tumbled after a fairly reliable warning signal of recession emerged from the bond market. Stocks in Asia and Europe, meanwhile, sank after China said it would take "necessary countermeasures" if President Donald Trump follows through on a threat to impose tariffs on more than \$100 billion of Chinese goods on Sept. 1.

The U.S. bond market, which has been among the loudest and earliest to cry out warnings about the economy, also continued to show concern as yields fell.

Trading was again turbulent, and markets around the world jerked up and down Thursday as they've



Trader Michael Capolino works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

been doing for weeks. Prices for everything from stocks to gold to oil have been heaving as investors flail from one moment of uncertainty around Trump's trade war to another around what central banks will do with interest rates.

In the U.S., Walmart shares surged 4.3% and helped to steady the market after it said it made a bigger profit

in the last three months than Wall Street expected, thanks in part to strong online sales of groceries. A separate government report also showed that retail sales across the country last month rose more than economists expected.

The S&P 500 was up 0.5%, as of 12:08 p.m. Eastern time after flipping between a loss of 0.2% and a gain of

0.6% through the morning. A day earlier, it plunged 2.9%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 125 points, or 0.5% to 25,604, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.3%.

Consumer spending makes up the bulk of the U.S. economy, and shoppers have been carrying the economy recently amid

worries that businesses will pull back on their spending due to all the uncertainty created by the trade war. Other economies are slowing as the trade war is doing damage to manufacturers around the world.

Those concerns helped drive the yield on the 10-year Treasury down to 1.53% Thursday from 1.58% late Wednesday. That yield has been steadily dropping since late last year, when it was above 3%.

The 10-year yield has sunk so much that it dropped below the yield of the two-year Treasury Wednesday, a rare occurrence and one that has historically suggested a recession may be a year or two away.

The 30-year Treasury yield fell to 1.99% from 2.02% and earlier touched a record low, a sign of concern among investors. When worried about weaker economic growth and inflation, they tend to pile into Treasuries, which pushes up their prices and in turn pushes down yields.

"The countdown to a recession has just started," said Hussein Sayed, Chief Market Strategist at FXTM. □

US industrial output fell 0.2% in July as factories struggle

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. industrial production fell 0.2% in July, as factory activity slumped in a worrisome sign for the economy. The Federal Reserve said Thursday that the overall decline was caused primarily by a 0.4% drop last month in manufacturing production. Output decreased for autos, fabricated metals, wood products, textiles and plastics and rubber products.

Over the past 12 months, factory production has fallen 0.5%. Manufacturers' struggles reflect a global softening in growth that has been magnified by President Donald Trump's use of tariffs to escalate a trade war with China. The risks have been great enough that the financial markets

on Wednesday flashed signs of a possible recession. The interest charged on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes fell below the rate charged on 2-year notes, usually an indicator that investors see near-term problems that could cause a downturn.

Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the trade war is weighing heavily on manufacturers.

"Uncertainty over which way it is headed, or how painful it will be, is preventing businesses from moving too far forward with spending, investing, hiring plans," she said.

The declining output at factories has led some analysts and politicians to suggest that manufacturing has entered into its own recession. But other indicators still

show growth. The pace of manufacturing job growth has slowed, but the sector is not beset by layoffs. The Institute for Supply Management, an association of purchasing managers, said earlier this month that its survey shows the sector is still expanding, though it has suffered from a slowdown.

Other components of the Fed's industrial production report were mixed.

Production at the nation's utilities increased 3.1%. Production at mines, a sector that also covers oil and gas drilling, fell 1.8% as Hurricane Barry temporarily halted oil extraction in the Gulf of Mexico.

More plant equipment is sitting idle. Capacity utilization slipped in July to 77.5%, down 2.2 points from a year ago. □



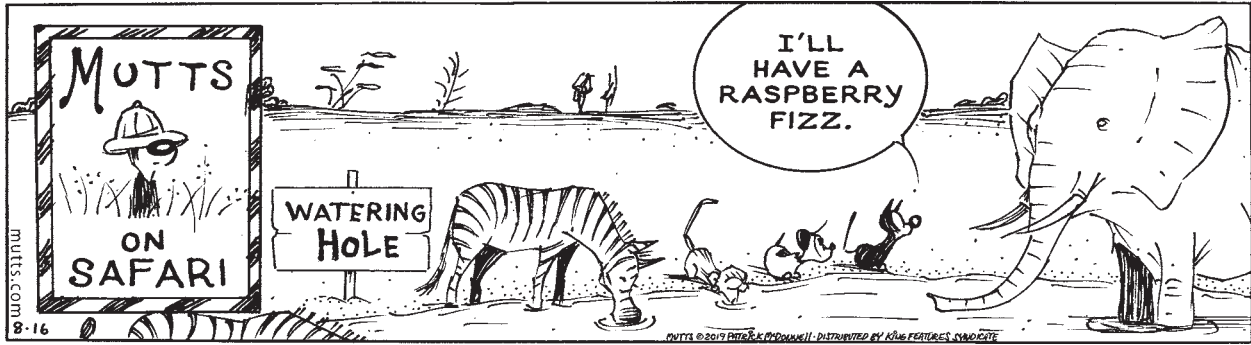
In this June 24, 2019, file photo Ford's employees work on a Lincoln Aviator line at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago's Hegewisch neighborhood.

Associated Press

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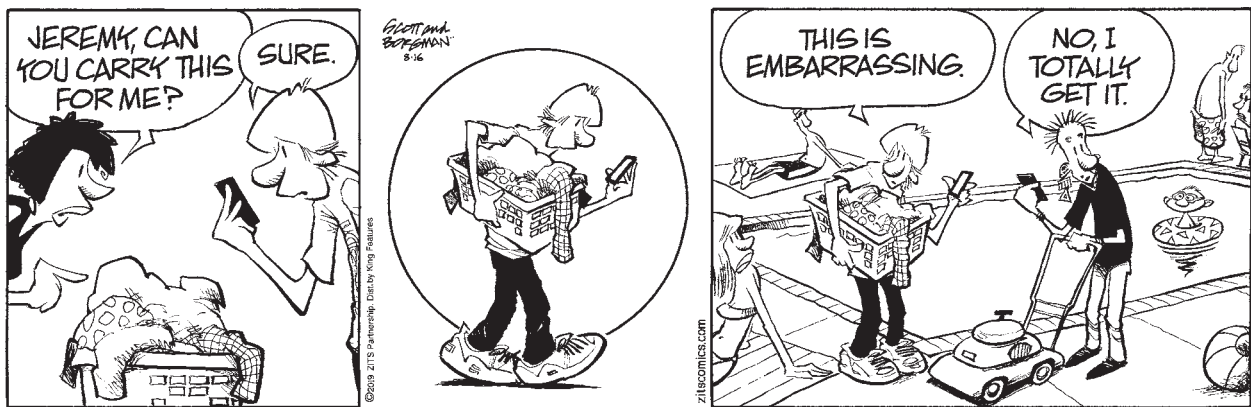
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				6				2
		5	9		1	4		
	7						8	
	8						9	
9				5				6
	3						5	
	1						7	
		8	6		7	1		
2				1				4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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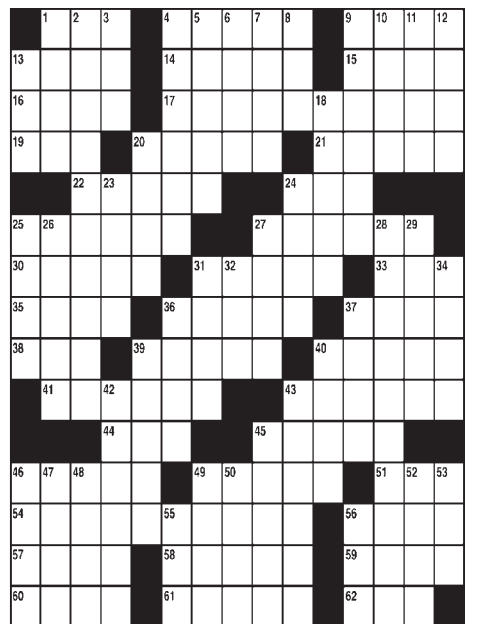
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	6	1	7	3	5	9	2	8
5	3	9	1	8	2	6	7	4
8	2	7	4	6	9	1	5	3
2	4	6	3	5	7	8	1	9
7	5	3	9	1	8	4	6	2
1	9	8	2	4	6	5	3	7
9	7	5	6	2	4	3	8	1
3	8	2	5	9	1	7	4	6
6	1	4	8	7	3	2	9	5

ACROSS

- 1 Cry
4 Luggage __; car toppers
9 Griffith or Williams
13 Directive
14 African lilies
15 Very dry
16 TV's "The Big __ Theory"
17 Heavy traffic problem
19 Late heavyweight champ
20 Monetary penalties
21 Chips in
22 Injured arm support
24 "Oh, __ Pete's sake!"
25 Intertwining
27 Pint-size
30 Flying saucer pilot
31 "Guilty" and "Not guilty"
33 Bathroom feature
35 Slapstick props
36 "Jack and the Beanstalk" ogre
37 Create
38 __ Antonio, TX
39 Toothpaste brand
40 Covered __; pioneer's transport
41 Gazed long and hard
43 Wears the crown
44 Regulation
45 Keaton or Sawyer
46 Flower stalks
49 Smell awful
51 Elected official: abbr.
54 Golfer's tops
56 One whose pants are on fire?
57 Sleeve fillers
58 The best
59 __-over-lightly; careless job
60 Home of twigs
61 __ for; represented
62 Grunt



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/16/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ASHE	APHID	ARAT
BOON	DIANA	RANI
CARE	DEFAMATION	
SKI	TART	RINDS
ZOOMS	DOS	
SHOUTS	CUSTOM	
PINTO	BRIDE	BOB
ARTS	MEATS	CLUE
TEA	FOAMY	SHIRT
SLALOM	REIGNS	
LID	HENNA	
STOLE	LEAD	TAN
CONTRABAND	MILE	
OUCH	DANCE	LOSS
TREE	ODDER	KNOT

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8/16/19

DOWN

- 1 Playful mammal
2 All-knowing
3 Marsh
4 Running fast
5 Go __ with; accompany
6 __ up; matured
7 Primary
8 Obtuse
9 Feeble
10 Just about
11 Washed off
12 "Same for me!"
13 Range
14 Floored it
15 Lawn trees
16 Gritty sediment
17 Set of three
18 Per item
19 Prefix for view or med
20 "For __ a jolly good fellow..."
21 Costello or Gehrig



In this Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017, file photo, a Florida Key deer stands on the side of Overseas Highway in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in Big Pine Key, Fla.

Associated Press

Government suggests taking Key deer off endangered list

By **MARCUS LIM**

MIAMI (AP) — The federal government is proposing to strip the tiny Key deer of its endangered species status despite what environmentalists say are continuing threats to the animal due to development in the Florida Keys, its only known habitat.

The deer is America's smallest, growing to about 30 inches (76 cm) at the shoulder, and has become a tourist attraction in the Keys. Its numbers are currently estimated at about 600, up from as low as a couple dozen in the 1950s. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says its studies show there are no more significant threats to the deer, and has set a public forum

on Aug. 22 in the Keys on removing the deer from the Endangered Species List. Environmental groups say stripping the deer of endangered status would leave it at the mercy of further human development and sea level rise.

Alicia Putney, the former president of Key Deer Protection Alliance, said she was shocked that the deer might be delisted.

"The population may have increased but the Key deer is still globally in peril," Putney said. "It has been popular for tourists around the world to see and the Keys draw many visitors for it." Hundreds of Key deer were wiped out because of damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017. □

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*WK 52 OV \$46k
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Downtown

Pure as snow? Scientists say air carrying plastics to Arctic

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Scientists say they've found an abundance of tiny plastic particles in Arctic snow, indicating that so-called microplastics are being sucked into the atmosphere and carried long distances to some of the remotest corners of the planet.

The researchers examined snow collected from sites in the Arctic, northern Germany, the Bavarian and Swiss Alps and the North Sea island of Heligoland with a process specially designed to analyze their samples in a lab.

"While we did expect to find microplastics, the enormous concentrations surprised us," Melanie Bergmann, a researcher at the Alfred-Wegener-Institute in Bremerhaven, Germany, said.

Their findings were published Wednesday in the journal *Science Advances*. Previous studies have found microplastics — which are created when man-made materials break apart and defined as pieces smaller than 5 millimeters — in the air of Paris, Tehran and Dongguan, China.



This undated photo provided by the 'Helmholtz centre for polar and marine research the Alfred Wegener institute' shows snow samples from Tschuggen, Switzerland, locked and ready for transport to Davos.

Associated Press

The research demonstrated the fragments may become airborne in a way similar to dust, pollen and fine particulate matter from vehicle exhausts.

While there's growing concern about the environmental impact of microplastics, scientists have yet

to determine what effect, if any, the minute particles have on humans or wildlife. Bergmann, who co-authored the study, said the highest concentrations of microplastics were found in the Bavarian Alps, with one sample having more than 150,000 particles per 1 liter

(0.26 gallons.)

Although the Arctic samples were less contaminated, the third-highest concentration in the samples the researchers analyzed — 14,000 particles per liter — came from an ice floe in the Fram Strait off eastern Greenland, she said.

On average, the researchers found 1,800 particles per liter in the samples taken from that region.

Martin Wagner, a biologist at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology who wasn't involved with the study, said the extremely high concentrations could be partly attributed to the methods the researchers used, which allowed them to identify microplastics as small as 11 micrometers, or 0.011 millimeters — less than the width of a human hair.

"This is significant because most studies so far looked at much larger microplastics," he said. "Based on that, I would conclude that we very much underestimate the actual microplastics levels in the environment."

"Importantly, the study demonstrates that atmospheric transport is a relevant process moving microplastics around, potentially over long ranges and on a global scale," Wagner added. "Also, snow may be an important reservoir storing microplastics and releasing it during snow melt, something that has not been looked at before." □



In this file photo dated Thursday, July 25, 2019, a bird sits on a straw bale on a field in Frankfurt, Germany, as the sun rises during an ongoing heatwave in Europe.

Associated Press

Scientists confirm July set new global heat record

By FRANK JORDANS

BERLIN (AP) — July was the hottest month measured on Earth since records began in 1880, the latest in a long line of peaks that scientists say backs up predictions for man-made climate change.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday that July was 0.95 degrees Celsius (1.71 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the 20th century average of 15.8 C (60.4 F) for the month.

Because July is generally the warmest month on the calendar, meteorologists say this means it also set a new all-time monthly record for the past 140 years.

Last month's temperatures narrowly topped the previous July record, set in 2016, by 0.03 C (0.05 F).

The results had been expected after several European countries including France, Belgium and Germany reported that July smashed previous national temperature records. The Swedish hamlet of Markusinsa recorded a sizzling 34.8 C (94.6 F), the highest temperature measured north of the Arctic Circle.

According to NOAA's records, 9 of the 10 hottest Julys on record have occurred since 2005 and last month was the 43rd consecutive July above the 20th century average.

The record temperatures notched up in July were accompanied with other major landmarks. Average Arctic sea ice, for example, was almost 20% below average in July, less even than the previous historic low of July 2012.

The July peaks came hot on the heels of a sizzling June, which ended up being the hottest June recorded over the past 140 years.

The year to date is also 0.95 C (1.71 F) above the long-term average, still slightly behind 2016 and on a par with 2017, NOAA said.

Meteorologists expect 2019 won't beat the current record for warmest year, set in 2016. □



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Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors recall her grace, grit

By JEFF KAROUB

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Regardless of her reputation as a performer, Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors say she was no diva as a patient.

As the anniversary of her death approaches, two of her doctors tell The Associated Press that the Queen of Soul handled the diagnosis and treatment with grace — and the grit to keep performing for years with a rare type of cancer.

"As a person, she was extremely kind, she was respectful, she was funny — she treated people like me and my team members as her friends," said Dr. Manisha Shah of Ohio State University. "There is no phone call that would end without her asking about us. Most of the time she would ask about us first. ... It's because who she was: She was really down-to-earth."

Franklin, who died in Detroit on Aug. 16, 2018, at 76, had pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer, which starts in the pancreas but is far different and much slower developing than the more common, aggressive type of pancreatic cancer known as adenocarcinoma. Franklin's kind is exceedingly rare: Neuroendocrine cancers comprise about 7% of cancers originating in the pancreas, according to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation.

Shah said she first saw



This July 26, 2010 file photo shows performer Aretha Franklin in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Franklin after her 2010 diagnosis, surgery and treatment at Detroit's Karmanos Cancer Center.

"I think she had her priorities very clear in her mind. ... She would ask me how long this treatment would go for, what would be her restrictions," Shah said. "As far as I can see, she was able to live that dream, or her plan."

Of course, her illness meant some cancellations, which was to include performing on her 76th birthday in March of last year in Newark and at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April. But she gamely carried on as her illness progressed: Performances of note included closing a gala in November 2017

for Elton John's 25th anniversary of his AIDS foundation, and bringing President Barack Obama and many others to tears in 2015 with a triumphant performance of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" at a Kennedy Center tribute for the song's co-writer, Carole King.

"How can the same person who is going through this cancer journey continue to do what she did all her life? It's amazing how she went through it so gracefully," Shah said. "She wasn't afraid."

Both Shah and Dr. Philip Agop Philip, a professor at Karmanos and Wayne State University, recalled how she wanted to continue her life as normally

— and positively — as possible.

"She was full speed — she wasn't even complaining," said Philip, who first saw Franklin in early 2011 and was her doctor of record at the time of her death. "That was different than what I expected. ... She never showed signs that she was close to thinking that she may give up ... until the end, close to the end."

In the public eye, she even embraced the "diva" tag, once saying, "What do YOU think?" when an AP reporter asked Franklin if she thought she was the ultimate diva while discussing a VH1 Divas concert honoring her music. Still, Philip also saw a patient who didn't demand star treatment,

saying she never made him or his staff "feel that we need to treat her as a celebrity." Of course, given her fame, some accommodations were made: She came and went through a side door and there were more frequent changes in appointments because of her performing schedule. While there, however, she was keen on doing whatever needed to be done, he said.

"She knew her body, she knew herself," he said. "A lot of patients will ask for treatment that doesn't really make much difference to her body. She didn't do that." Shah says Franklin's cancer — the same kind Apple co-founder and longtime leader Steve Jobs had — has many treatment options, and her doctors employed both targeted drug therapy and chemotherapy. Shah said she talked with Franklin about traveling to Europe for a treatment before it was approved last year in the United States. It was then the doctor learned of her patient's famous fear of flying, which anti-anxiety tapes and classes couldn't help. "She said, 'Oh no, I can't go — I don't fly,'" Shah recalled. "We had several other options for her." Both Shah and Philip recall Franklin's positivity in the face of cancer, and the positive effect that had on them as well as their colleagues. □

K-pop superstar group BTS will take break, but brief

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A representative for K-pop superstar group BTS said Tuesday the boy band is taking a break, but it will only be brief.

BTS's rep told The Associated Press that the seven-member group will take a "well-deserved vacation." It was recently reported that BTS will head on an "extended" hiatus, but the group's rep said that's not the case.

"It has been widely reported that BTS will be taking a hiatus. To clarify, BTS will only be taking a brief, but well-deserved vacation," the group's rep said in an emailed statement. "We want to assure all of the BTS ARMY, fans, friends and the media that the group is excited to get back on the stage very soon for their scheduled stadium tour. More exciting BTS news and events to come!"

BTS's agency Big Hit Entertainment said a concert Sunday in Seoul was the

group's last scheduled performance before members take "vacations" for the first time since their 2013 debut. The agency didn't say when BTS will start performing again.

The company's website said BTS is scheduled to perform in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Seoul in October.

BTS has a large international following and was the first K-pop act to debut atop the Billboard Album chart last year with "Love Yourself: Tear." □



In this photo from April 24, 2019, the K-pop BTS group arrives at the The Fact Music awards ceremony in Incheon, South Korea.

Associated Press

Tweens invade the raunchy teen comedy in 'Good Boys'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The 12-year-old protagonists of "Good Boys" have mastered the use of lingo like "lit" and "burn," but they are foggier on just exactly what a tampon is and swear that a nymphomaniac is someone who has sex on land and on sea. They are tantalizingly close to young adulthood and yet tragically far away. "Good Boys" mines that gulf

between childhood and adolescence like few films have before. To be fair, few have even tried quite like this. "Good Boys" is rated R which means, as its marketing has playfully highlighted, that its young stars — Jacob Tremblay, Keith L. Williams, Brady Noon — aren't old enough to see their own movie alone, even though they're the ones launching F-bombs and unwittingly goofing



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Brady Noon, from left, as Thor, Keith L. Williams as Lucas, and Jacob Tremblay, as Max, in the film, "Good Boys," written by Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky and directed by Stupnitsky.

Associated Press

around with sex toys. That contradiction is at the heart of "Good Boys," a teen comedy about tweens. All of the genre's hallmarks are there, but they've been shifted down a grade or two. The party the kids are trying frantically to get to isn't a kegger but a "kissing party." Bonds of friendship are tested not by the looming

separation of college but the onset of middle school cliques. And there are slightly different hurdles that stymie their adventures along the way. Whenever the boys encounter the child lock on a medicine bottle, for instance, they're at a complete loss. "Good Boys" is a kind of mini-me to "Superbad."

(Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, who wrote "Superbad" are producers.) It's the movie version of a kid wearing clothes many sizes too big. And while it doesn't touch the comic heights of "Superbad," "Good Boys" is a raunchy good time and probably one of the most faithful cinematic representations of pre-pubescent boyhood. 

Samira Wiley says she'll never forget her character Poussey



This June 28, 2019, photo shows Samira Wiley posing for a portrait in New York to promote the seventh season of "Orange is the New Black."
Associated Press

Associated Press

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Samira

Wiley has some advice for us all: "Find something that you love to do and get somebody to pay you for it."

Before that happened to the "Orange is the New Black" co-star, before she was even accepted to The Juilliard School, there was little more than her "tortured love" of the craft. That was no deterrence, though.

"There's this intense, intense love on my part but, like, I don't know if it loves me back, kind of thing," said Wiley, who spent her childhood participating in various arts programs. "I just never got any encouragement or any, really, indication at all that I was possibly talented. I just knew that I

was in love with theater." After high school, she applied to conservatories but came up empty-handed, landing at Temple University and eventually Juilliard. "Acting, it's almost like this addiction," said Wiley, who played Poussey Washington on the Netflix series that released its seventh and final season in July. "I can't imagine my life without it." The show's creative team has established a fund that will support advocacy groups pressing for criminal justice reform and women re-entering society from prison, along with those working to protect immigrants' rights and end mass incarceration. The fund is named in honor of Wiley's character. □

[illegible]

Melanie recalls Woodstock concert and not being paid for it

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Melanie, known as the First Lady of Woodstock, remembers having a supernatural experience as she walked on the rainy stage in 1969 to perform at one of the most iconic events of all-time, though iconic isn't how anyone would have described the day back then. "I had an out-of-body experience and I wasn't altered by drugs," she recalled. She was just 22 when she performed at the historic concert that also included Jimi Hendrix, the Grateful Dead and Joan Baez. Melanie had been waiting for hours and hours to perform, sitting on the side of the stage as she watched Richie Havens and others complete their sets. "The terror kept building in me. The thought of me performing in front of all of those people and that huge stage — I was all by myself," she said. "Then it started to rain and I truly

believed that everyone was going to get up and go home. It's raining, I'm free, I'll go back to life as it was. Maybe I will be an archaeologist; maybe I will join the Peace Corps. That's when they said, 'You're next.'" The Incredible String Band was supposed to go on-stage, but "they had concerns about electrocution," Melanie recalled.

"I didn't know about electric yet," she said. "I just went on and my life was never the same. A complete spiritual awakening."

Melanie, whose hits include "Brand New Key" and "Lay Down (Candles in the Rain)," was one of the few female performers at Woodstock. She said though Woodstock is remembered as a groundbreaking concert, "the last thing that I thought was that it would become a historic event."

"People would say things like, 'Oh, Bob Dylan's coming. Oh no, he's not. Maybe this group was coming.



In this Aug. 15, 1998, file photo, Melanie Safka, who performed at the original Woodstock decades ago, opens the second day of the festival "Day In The Garden," in Bethel, N.Y.

Associated Press

Oh, this group is coming.' I guess because people were pulling out, canceling because they knew that it was chaos."

"Very few people got paid, unless the agency was representing them," the 72-year-old added. "A lot of us didn't. I never made a penny from Woodstock."

Melanie was set to perform at Woodstock co-founder Michael Lang's axed 50th-anniversary concert this year (Lang said all of the artists were paid in full despite the event's cancellation). But Melanie's still celebrating Woodstock's birthday at another concert honoring the event's legacy: WE

2019 Experience in West Jefferson, North Carolina. The two-weekend affair, which kicked off last week and starts again Friday, features performers such as Jefferson Starship, Ten Years After, John Sebastian and Canned Heat. An estimated 400,000 people showed up for the original festival on upstate New York farmland Aug. 15-18, 1969.

"Fifty years later and I am the embodiment of the spirit of Woodstock. I saw what happened. People came together in a way that you see this when a catastrophe happens, people band together; they sort of overcome amazing obstacles. That's the spirit of what was going on. I experienced it and I can't let go of it," she said.

"At one point I figured, you know, I am in the service industry here. I do fulfill a little bit, I get those people, they're in front of me, and we all go to a higher place. That's all there is to it." □

Gyllenhaal attributes conquering fear to Oscar-winning doc

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Few performances are as daunting as the one-person play. That's why Jake Gyllenhaal had to find a way to conquer that fear when he took on the role of Abe in the second half of "Sea Wall/A Life."

"Before I did it, I was terrified," Gyllenhaal said of "A Life," after the play's Broadway opening. Tom Sturridge stars in "Sea Wall," the other half of the pair of one-act monologues.

Gyllenhaal admits that nervousness extended to the rehearsal room. But then he found confidence in an unlikely place. The story of Alex Honnold's 3,000-foot (914-meter) climb of the El Capitan rock formation at Yosemite National Park.

"I was sort of quaking in my boots thinking about it. Then I saw 'Free Solo,' that documentary about the free climber Alex Honnold that won the Academy Award. Amazing, amaz-



In this June 17, 2019 file photo, actor Jake Gyllenhaal poses for photographers upon arrival at the photo call for 'Spiderman: Far From Home' in London.

Associated Press

ing documentary, and I thought to myself, if he can do that without any rope I can do a monologue. And then that was it," Gyllenhaal said.

From then on, it was smooth

sailing.

It was a little different for Sturridge. "I feel like weirdly - like before I walk on stage I feel fear. But I feel safest on the stage," Sturridge said.

Both actors say the lack of an onstage partner to play off of can add to the stress; there isn't a safety net if you blow a line. But Sturridge uses the audience.

"Normally when you're on

stage you're pretending to be in a room and pretending like you're in Russia and 1920s and you're pretending the audience don't exist. But with this, I'm having a conversation with real people who are different every night. And if I blow a line, then we just change the conversation," Sturridge said. "Sea Wall/A Life," a pair of plays written by Nick Payne and Simon Stephens, respectively are tragic comedies that deal with love and loss.

Gyllenhaal says the emotional value shifts with each audience.

"It's very emotional through all of it. But it changes every night. It's different. Sometimes I'm telling the story, I'm just telling it. Sometimes things happen. Sometimes I hear someone in the audience have an emotional response. He was laughing or crying, and it makes me feel something," he said.

"Sea Wall/A Life" plays on Broadway at the Hudson Theater until Sept. 29. □

NASA scientists fly over Greenland to track melting ice

By SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press

ABOARD A NASA RESEARCH PLANE OVER GREENLAND

(AP) — The fields of rippling ice 500 feet below the NASA plane give way to the blue-green of water dotted with irregular chunks of bleached-white ice, some the size of battle-ships, some as tall as 15-story buildings.

Like nearly every other glacier on Greenland, the massive Kangerlussuaq is melting. In fact, the giant frozen island has seen one of its biggest melts on record this year. NASA scientist Josh Willis is now closely studying the phenomenon in hopes of figuring out precisely how global warming is eating away at Greenland's ice.

Specifically, he wants to know whether the melting is being caused more by warm air or warm seawater. The answer could be crucial to Earth's future.

Water brings more heat to something frozen faster than air does, as anyone who has ever defrosted a steak under the faucet knows.

If Willis' theory that much of the damage is from the water turns out to be correct, he said, "there's a lot higher potential for Greenland to melt more quickly than we thought." And that means seas rising faster and coastal communities being inundated more.

Greenland contains enough ice to make world sea levels rise by 20 feet if it were all to melt. In a single



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, icebergs are photographed from the window of an airplane carrying NASA Scientists as they fly on a mission to track melting ice in eastern Greenland.

Associated Press

day this month, it lost a record 13.7 billion tons (12.5 billion metric tons) by one estimate.

"It's a little scary," Willis said as looked down on an area filled with more water than ice. "We're definitely watching the ice sheet disappear in front of us."

Climate change is eating away at Greenland's glaciers in two ways. The most obvious way is from the warm air above, which has been brutal this summer, with a European heat wave in July working like a hair dryer on the ice. The other way is from warm, salty water, some of it from North America's Gulf Stream, nibbling at coastal glaciers from below.

When University of Georgia ice scientist Tom Mote, who isn't part of this project, started studying Greenland's glaciers in the early 1990s, researchers really didn't think the water was a big factor.

Willis' project — called Oceans Melting Greenland, or OMG — is showing that it is. Now the question is how much and how fast. What Willis is measuring is the water 660 feet (200 meters) or more below the surface, which is warmer and saltier than the stuff that touches the air. It's this deep water that does the major damage.

To measure this, NASA is spending five years crisscrossing the island in a tricked-out 77-year-old DC-3 built for World War II. Willis, project manager Ian McCubbin and mechanic Rich Gill drop long, cylindrical probes through a special tube in the floor of the plane, watching as the sensors parachute down and then dive into the chilly water.

McCubbin then waits for a tone on his computer that tells him the probe is underwater and measuring temperature and salinity. When all of the flight's five probes start signaling — with a sound McCubbin likens to "a fax machine or an AOL

modem" — he and Willis high-five.

Meanwhile, pilots Andy Ferguson and Don Watrous bank the plane toward the blue-green spots, looking for the next target and pointing out stunning giant icebergs and signs of glacial retreat over the radio. As the data is radioed back from one \$2,000 probe now deep in the water near Kangerlussuaq in eastern Greenland, it initially looks like the temperature hasn't changed much over the last year or two, which could be good news. But that's just one data point. Each year for the past four years, NASA has been looking at all of Greenland, and the numbers overall haven't

been quite as comforting.

If the water is playing a much bigger role than scientists thought, it could mean seas will be rising faster and higher than expected. That's because 90% of the heat energy from climate change goes into the oceans, Willis said. Warm water provides "a bigger bang for the buck" than air when it comes to melting ice, Willis said.

Just how crucial seawater is to melting was illustrated, somewhat paradoxically, by the Jakobshavn glacier, the fast-shrinking glacier on Greenland's more populated west coast. In recent years, it suddenly started to grow a bit, probably because of a cooling of waters as a result of a temporary shift in weather and water-current patterns, Willis said.

In general, oceans warm up much more slowly than the air, yet they stay warmer longer. The water weakens glaciers and causes icebergs to break loose. Those icebergs eventually melt, adding to the seas.

"Some of them are as big as a city," Willis said.

A 2019 study by Danish climate scientist Ruth Mottram looked at 28 glaciers in Greenland with long-term data. Nearly all are melting, with only one or two that could be considered somewhat stable.

"One glacier retreating looks like carelessness, but 28 retreating is the sign of something going on," Mottram told The Associated Press. □



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, NASA project manager Ian McCubbin looks out of the window of a plane as they fly on a mission to track melting ice in eastern Greenland.

Associated Press



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, NASA scientist Josh Willis prepares to release a probe from a plane as they fly above the Kangerlussuaq Glacier in eastern Greenland.

Associated Press